

WRESTLING'S
BEST BUY!

VICTORY
SPORTS
SERIES

Inside

INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION BRET HART:
**The Men Out To Hit
"The Hitman"**

Jan. 1992
47727

\$1.95 U.S.
\$2.75 Canada
£1.95 U.K.

Wrestling

EXCLUSIVE!

Inside Wrestling Reveals:
**STING'S MEMO FROM A
MANIAC!**

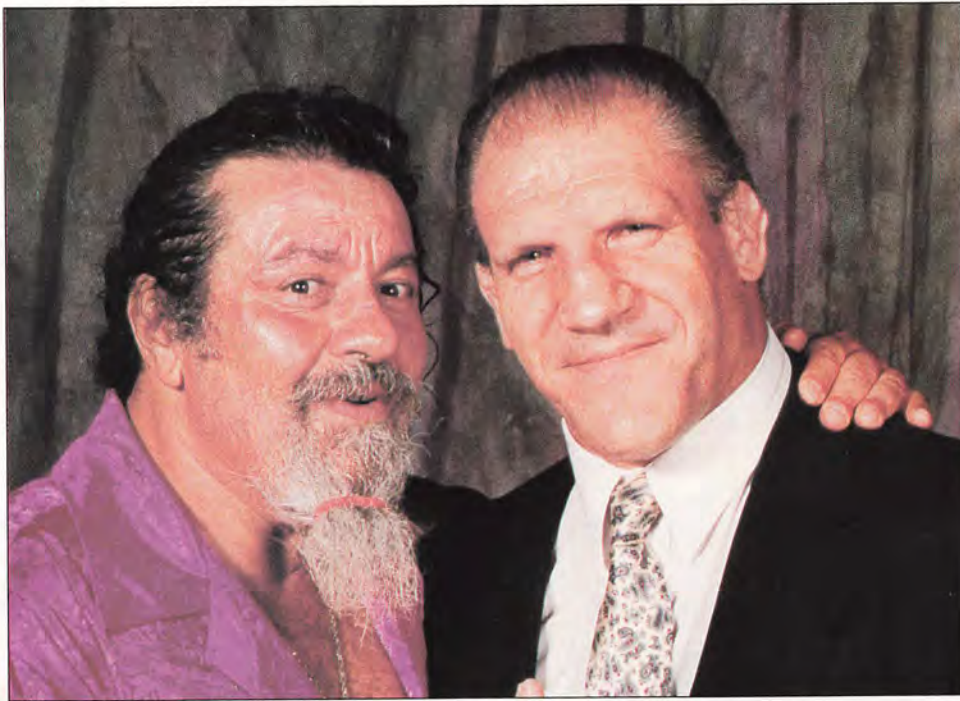
To Sting

It's over for you, dude!
You might as well give up
now. What you've seen is
only the beginning. Leave
the sport now, and I'll
spare you. If you want to
stick around and play
tough guy, I'm going to
make your life so
miserable, you'll be on
your knees begging
for a second chance.
Well, old boy, you're
not going to get one.
Leave now or
(continued on page 34)

**THE FREEBIRDS TURN GOOD . . .
FOR THE GOOD OF THE FREEBIRDS
DUSTY RHODES:
"I'M IN SHAPE, RESTED, AND
READY TO RUMBLE!"**



Play Trivia & Get the Inside Wrestling Scoop



Call Captain Lou Albano & Bruno Sammartino, The Living Legend

WIN GRAND PRIZE - TRIP FOR 4 TO WRESTLEMANIA VIII - \$2500 VALUE
(Date to be announced)

WIN MONTHLY FIRST PRIZE - \$200 CASH

WIN SECOND PRIZE - TEE SHIRT - \$15 VALUE
(Every 100th entry, phone or mail, wins automatically)

Call Captain Lou and Bruno at **1-900-737-7746** now! Then you decide. Either challenge the Captain and Bruno at trivia and win great prizes . . . or for pure pleasure listen to the Inside Scoop Storyline . . . or do both! To play Trivia, and qualify, all you've got to do is get three out of five answers correct. That's right only 3 out of 5. If you're correct, you're automatically entered in the Grand Prize and Monthly First Prize drawings. If you're lucky enough to be one of the 100th callers, or mail entrants, you could be an instant winner the minute you call! Call now and qualify to win a FREE TRIP to WRESTLEMANIA VIII!

Call 1-900-737-7746

\$1.95 first minute. 95¢ each additional minute. If you're under 18 years of age, you must have parents' permission. Touchtone phone required.

Rules: No purchase or phone call necessary. Call as often as you'd like, all phone entries receive immediate notice of entry. Or enter by mail and receive notification at contest end. To enter by mail send a 3" x 5" card and a stamped self-addressed envelope, with the words "Trivia Contest" written on the outside, to address below. We'll send you your qualifying trivia questions. All qualifiers will be entered in the drawing and winners selected at random by an independent judging organization. Winners will be notified by mail. Deadline to receive mail or phone entries is February 28, 1992. Odds of winning are determined by the total number of entrants. Void in Iowa, New York, Florida, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Georgia, Louisiana, Washington, Oregon and where prohibited by law. Unclaimed prizes will be awarded in a subsequent drawing from all entrants within 30 days of original drawing. For a complete set of rules and winners' list, send a stamped self-addressed envelope for each request to the address below.

Wrestling Trivia • 14802 N. Dale Mabry • Suite 200 • Tampa, FL 33618

THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE

Wrestling

CONTENTS/JANUARY 1992

- 4 **SINCERELY YOURS**
Lying Luger; Ellner Anguish; Farewell, Flair
- 6 **EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK** by Stu Saks
Slaughter should never be forgiven
- 8 **NAMES MAKIN' NEWS** by Bill Apter
All the latest news as of press time
- 10 **ON THE ROAD** with Craig Peters
What a difference two years makes!
- 12 **BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR** by David Rosenbaum
Tracking down a "Nightmare"
- 14 **THE INSIDER** by Eddie Ellner
There's not much left of the Class of '85
- 16 **ON ASSIGNMENT** by Liz Hunter
The always-raucous world of Jimmy Garvin
- 18 **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
Updates on four major mat stars
- 19 **CAPSULE PROFILE #186**
A mini-biography plus pinup of Richard Morton
- 22 **NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS**
Eyewitness coverage of the month's major matches
- 24 **MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING**
A true tragedy, plus the old vs. new Gardens
- 26 **THE BLACKHEARTS: WRESTLING'S MOST AWESOME UNKNOWNNS**
They're mysterious, but they're a fantastic team
- 30 **IS ROTUNDO SANE?**
A psychologist believes the pressure's gotten to Mike Rotundo
- 34 **EXCLUSIVE! INSIDE WRESTLING REVEALS:**
STING'S MEMO FROM A MANIAC!
An inside look at a chilling letter
- 38 **INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION BRET HART:**
THE MEN OUT TO HIT "THE HITMAN"
The Canadian star faces a rocky title trail
- 42 **DUSTY RHODES: "I'M IN SHAPE, RESTED, AND READY TO RUMBLE!"**
The "Dream" returns with a surprising "Hotseat" interview
- 46 **THE FREEBIRDS TURN GOOD . . . FOR THE GOOD OF THE FREEBIRDS**
Any way the wind blows for these 'Birds
- 50 **ONE ON ONE**
Dutch Mantel vs. Stan Hansen
- 64 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
Top 15 rankings in seven important categories
- 65 **INSIDE WRESTLING ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**
The most comprehensive championship directory available anywhere
- 66 **BLAST FROM THE PAST**
This month in wrestling history

STANLEY WESTON
Founder and Chairman of the Board

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Stuart M. Saks
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Craig Peters
SENIOR EDITOR Bill Apter
SENIOR WRITER David Rosenbaum
ASSOCIATE EDITORS Andy Rodriguez
..... Bob Smith
..... Eddie Ellner
ASSISTANT EDITORS Jeff Ryan
..... Steve Farhood
..... Robert Cassidy
..... Joseph Tintle
..... Edward P. Maloney
ART DIRECTOR Kenneth Morgan
ART ASSOCIATES Charles Foster
..... Joseph Kalman
PHOTO EDITOR Roy London
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR Al Bello
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Matt Brock
..... Elizabeth A. Hunter
..... Kostya Kennedy

PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
Stuart M. Saks
ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Donna Lynn Downs Cricchio
VICE PRESIDENT—MEDIA RELATIONS
Bill Apter
VICE PRESIDENT—ART DIRECTION
Kenneth Morgan
VICE PRESIDENT—EDITORIAL DIRECTION
Craig Peters
VICE PRESIDENT—SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
Natalie Carollo

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
David Gerhardt
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Robert Nucci
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Natalie Carollo
PRODUCT FULFILLMENT DIRECTOR
Dina Meekins
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
Jacqueline Callaghan—Subscription Services
Katherine Derasmo—Accounting Services
MAILING FULFILLMENT
Arthur Esposito—Chief
Allan Holman

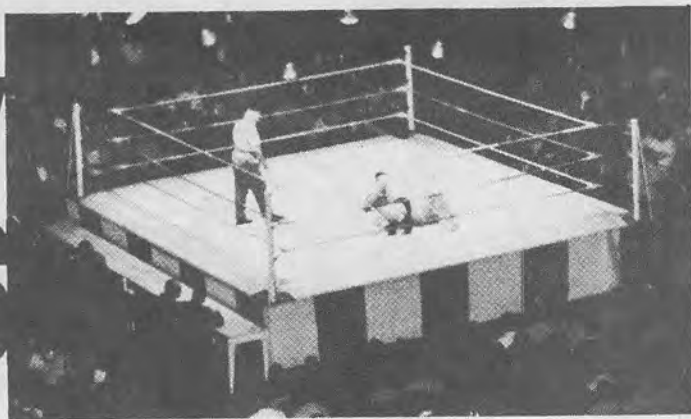
Cover photos:
Sting by Bill Apter
Hart vs. Warlord
by David Fitzgerald

INSIDE WRESTLING (ISSN: 1047-9562) is published monthly by G.C. London Publishing Assoc. Inc., Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. Second-class postage paid at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address notices to "Inside Wrestling," Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. Single copy price \$1.95 (\$2.75 in Canada, £1.95 in U.K.). Not responsible for the loss or nonreturn of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: Jim Messing, J.E. Publishers' Representative, 11150 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA, 90064, (1-800) 678-9321. U.S. & Canadian distribution by Kable News Company, 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY, 10036; International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY, 10010; U.K. distribution by Cornag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. Printed in U.S.A.

Next issue on sale December 17

SINCERELY YOURS

Send letters to:
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571



LYING LUGER

After reading the "Hotseat" interview with Lex Luger in the November 1991 issue ("It's Time For The World To Forget Ric Flair"), one can really see what a pathetic coward Luger really is. His lying comments are truly disgusting. Not only was he rude and surly, but he made some interesting revelations about his true character.

I predict total humiliation and ruin for Luger very soon, and when it happens he will hightail it out of WCW for good. Luger will have no one but himself to blame, because he's his own worst enemy.

He's an excellent candidate for psychotherapy.

RITA M. BUDA
Chicago

BUSINESS OR SPORT?

As fans, we sometimes forget that professional sports is a business. We tend to attack those who look at it in a business sense and love those who look at it as a fun sport.

When Lex Luger, Tommy Rich, Terry Taylor, and Rick Morton turned their backs on their fans, we all got angry. But what can you expect?

The bottom line is money. It can easily be understood what turns a fan favorite to rulebreaking. Luger, Rich, Morton, and Taylor were only trying to put food on their families' tables and more money in their pockets. We can only blame society. We may not like it, but we as wrestling fans must learn to live with it.

LEROY LaRONDE
Tampa, FL



Despite Harley Race's advice, WCW World champion Lex Luger is, in reader Rita Buda's words, "a pathetic coward" headed for "total humiliation."

BRING BACK THE DEMOS

I address this letter to *Inside Wrestling* because of your landmark petition in the June 1988 issue to bring The Rock 'n' Roll Express back to wrestling.

The great team of Demolition appears to be in a state of flux. One minute I read they're in the WWF, then Crush is in the Pacific Northwest, then they're *both* wrestling in the

WWC. I think there should be a petition to keep them in the WWF.

Demolition is one of the greatest tag teams ever. Just because The Legion of Doom is in the WWF shouldn't mean that the two teams can't co-exist. If enough fans write to the WWF, they could show Vince McMahon that people still care about Crush and Smash.

JIM IMBRUGLIA
Medford, MA



Reader Jim Imbruglia says Demolition was one of the greatest teams ever, and thinks they should return to the WWF and compete alongside The Legion of Doom.

ELNER ANGUISH

I'm getting sick of Eddie "Idiot" Ellner putting everyone down, especially Andre the Giant and the Rhodes family.

Get a life!

CHRIS SEHLMAYER
Norwalk, OH

I have just finished reading Eddie Ellner's comments concerning Andre the Giant in the October 1991 issue. Andre is a mighty competitor, and has endured—with dignity—years of battles in a sport where many newcomers never see a second match.

I have been in the music industry for 16 years and I do realize the power—and the *responsibility*—of the press. I am an avid viewer of the WWF, and have been a fan of Andre for many years. As such, I was deeply offended by Ellner's insinuation that the giant is inadequate and that the WWF is unprofessional.

Mr. Ellner, I ask you: Since it is your opinion that Andre displays a

lack of wrestling ability, would you step into a ring to oppose him?

BRANDY DANIELS
St. John's, Newfoundland

OBJECTS OF DESIRE

It was with great relish that I read your article on smuggling weapons into

the ring in your November 1991 issue ("The 'Fine' Art Of Hiding Foreign Objects"). I must admit I take a kind of perverse pleasure in seeing people get away with breaking the rules in the ring.

On my all-time list of foreign object
(Continued on page 52)



Watching The Sheik use foreign objects to carve up opponents like Mighty Igor always thrilled reader Tim Verdon. Tim also enjoyed how Baron Mikel Scicluna broke the rules.

SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Sure, Sgt. Slaughter, I forgive you. What you did wasn't so bad. You sided with our national enemy during the Persian Gulf War. So what? Mothers and fathers saw their sons leave our shores, and you offered nothing but contempt. Wives said goodbye to husbands, husbands said goodbye to wives, children tearfully said so long to parents, not knowing how long--or if in fact they'd ever they'd see them again.

You mocked our forces and swore they'd be wiped out by Saddam Hussein's forces. You played on everyone's deepest fears. You tried to make everyone hate you. It worked.

You got your title match with The Ultimate Warrior, and you scored your illegal victory. You got your big bucks bout with Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania. You lost but accepted defeat like a true man. You ambushed your conqueror with a fireball.

Now, let's be fair. We shouldn't forget your past. You were once among the most admired men in this country. You were a true example of patriotism and courage. You even became a G.I. Joe character. You then crushed your loyal followers, but so what?

You had a reason: "Ambition." You say you were so blinded by the A-word that you couldn't see what harm you were causing. I'd call it the G-word: "Greed." You knew exactly what you were doing. Building up your bank account. No, I don't believe you were really an Iraqi sympathizer. In fact, you used Saddam Hussein worse than you used the American people. There is only one person Sgt. Slaughter is loyal to, and that's Sgt. Slaughter. It was only after you got your butt kicked by Hogan for the hundredth time that you came crawling back, begging for forgiveness, hoping that you can again profit from your good-guy image.

Forgive you, Sgt. Slaughter? I spit on you.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT OFFER

If you are looking for a special holiday gift for a wrestling fan, we have the answer. Try a gift subscription package of the world's best-selling and most-respected wrestling magazines! It's the only holiday gift that lasts an entire year! Just check off which gift package you want, and we do the rest. A gift notice will be sent to the recipient. There's no better way to make this a memorable holiday season for someone you love!

GIFT PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Magazine Title <small>(Please check which magazines you want)</small>	Per Year U.S. Only	Per Year Canada/Foreign	Issues Per Year	New	Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED	\$21.95	\$29.95	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> THE WRESTLER	\$17.95	\$23.95	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> INSIDE WRESTLING	\$17.95	\$23.95	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> WRESTLER & INSIDE WRESTLING	\$29.95	\$41.95	24	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING	\$18.95	\$24.95	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> WRESTLING 92 & WRESTLING SUPERSTARS	\$17.95	\$23.95	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, WRESTLER & INSIDE WRESTLING	\$46.95	\$64.95	36	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY	\$49.99 (U.S. & Canada); \$88.99 (foreign)		52	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GOLDEN GIFT OFFER

<input type="checkbox"/> PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLER, INSIDE WRESTLING, WRESTLING 92, SUPERSTARS SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING	\$79.95	\$109.95	58	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------	----------	----	--------------------------	--------------------------

**Send To: T.V. SPORTS
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571**

Please enter the special gift subscription(s)
I've checked on the coupon.

Please Indicate Method Of Payment: *(U.S. funds only.)*

- ☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to T.V. Sports)
☐ VISA # _____
☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____
MO/YR

THIS GIFT IS FOR

YOUR NAME

ADDRESS

APT.

ADDRESS

APT.

CITY

CITY

STATE

ZIP

STATE

ZIP

☐ NEW ☐ RENEW

TELEPHONE # _____

NAMES MAKING

SHOULD FANS TRUST former WWF World champion **Sgt. Slaughter** or not? Apparently, the former Marine drill instructor wants to atone for his callous actions in renouncing the U.S. during the height of the Persian Gulf conflict this past winter.

Slaughter, who defeated **The Ultimate Warrior** for the WWF World title on January 19 before losing the belt to **Hulk Hogan** at WrestleMania VII, was pinned by Hogan to end the tag team main event at SummerSlam '91 on August 26 in New York. Slaughter did not make a public appearance for more than a month following that humiliating loss, but now has resurfaced with a shockingly differ-



SGT. SLAUGHTER

ent attitude.

On an interview conducted by **Gene Okerlund** that was broadcast on *WWF Superstars Of Wrestling* the weekend of September 28, an unshaven and somber Slaughter lamented his fate as an outcast from the WWF. He explained that ambition blinded him from seeing that what he was doing was wrong.

"You're right—I got exactly what I deserved at that 'Match Made In Hell' at SummerSlam," Slaughter told Okerlund, referring to the incident in which Hogan threw powder in Slaughter's face. Slaughter admitted that he had wrongly decided to join **Gen. Adnan** and **Col. Mustafa**, and insisted that "I want my country back."

At press time, Slaughter was without any allies at all. Mustafa has already



GEN. ADNAN

gone on record berating Slaughter, calling him a "coward." Slaughter, however, seems more concerned with trying to get the fans to trust him again. Do you trust Slaughter, who did everything short of burning the U.S. flag during the past year? My jury is definitely still out on this one.

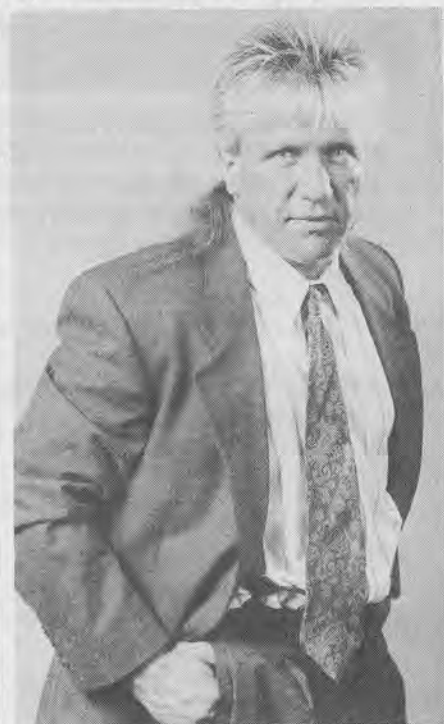
In WCW, the hottest new rivalry appears to be between sensational "**Flyin'**" **Brian Pillman** and veteran **Richard Morton**, formerly of **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**. The two stars, who were scheduled to wrestle

for the newly created WCW light heavyweight title at Halloween Havoc '91, didn't wait for that match to battle each other. They've been after each other's blood for weeks!

"What Morton has done to all his loyal fans makes me sick," said Pillman, happy to be back in action following a two-month suspension. "He's turned his back on everyone he's ever teamed with, from **Robert Gibson** to myself. Well, his day was six or seven years ago. I'm the man who can bring respect to the light heavyweight division, not an aging has-been like Morton."

Morton, however, is more confident than ever since joining the computerized rulebreaking clique of **Alexandra York**, which now also includes **Thomas Rich** and **Terrence Taylor**.

"With the newest program that Ms. York has devised for me, I'll expose Pillman as the poor wrestler that he is," said the abrasive Morton. "Since



RICHARD MORTON

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

I've joined **The York Foundation**, I've yet to lose. I don't care that much about the light heavyweight title, since I know it's just the first step toward many more belts to come. I just want to get rid of that **Yellow Dog** Pillman!"

Seven-time former WCW World champion **Ric Flair** appears to be well on his way to establishing himself as **Hulk Hogan's** top contender for the WWF World title. The "Nature Boy" scored a victory over **Roddy Piper** on September 30 in Wheeling, West Virginia—but needed to use illegal leverage from the ropes to get the pinfall ... **Demolition**—the version comprised by **Crush** and **Smash**—has returned to action for Super World Sports in Japan ... USWA champion **Jerry "The King" Lawler** battled veteran WWF star **Koko B. Ware** to an exciting no-contest on September 30 in Memphis. True to form, Lawler offered Ware a rematch. "I'll take on a man with his kind of skill anytime," said Lawler, who continues to defend his

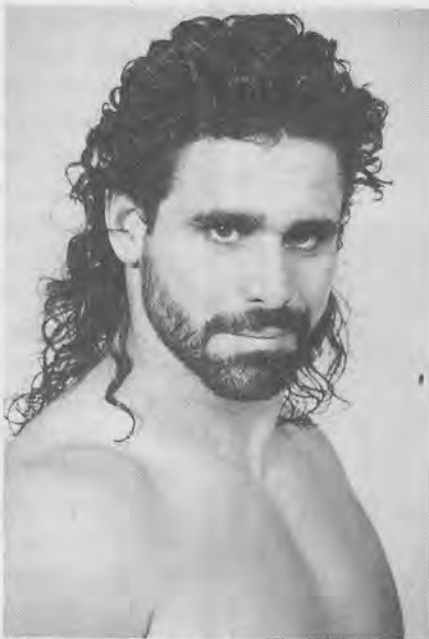


JERRY LAWLER

belt with pride.

Who is **The Boss** in the Global Wrestling Federation, the man who has formed a rulebreaking organization featuring **Rip Rogers**, **Makhan Singh**, **The Davis Brothers**, and other barbarians? No one seems to know for sure, but GWF interim North American Commissioner **Max Andrews** is not at all happy about this situation.

"These rulebreakers have been going



AL PEREZ

to great lengths to cripple **Al Perez**, **The Patriot**, and other Global stars," said an angry Andrews. "These guys are obviously being paid off by someone, but that person doesn't have the bravery to step forward and admit to it. I just hope whoever this 'Boss' is, he's ready to lose even more money—because I'll start laying out heavy fines if someone gets seriously hurt!"

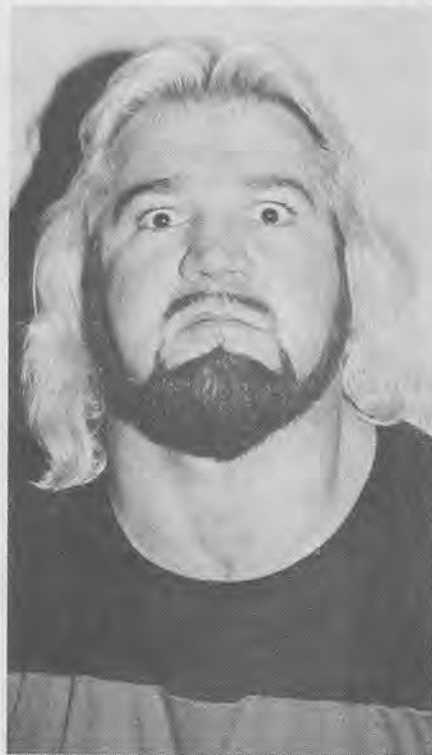
"**Pretty Boy**" **Doug Somers**, who teamed with **Buddy Rose** to win the AWA tag team title in 1986, recently returned to the sport in WCW ... **Tito Santana**, who recently challenged tough **Tony Atlas** for the ICW title,

has returned to the WWF as **El Matador** ... Popular **Sunny Beach** continues to make waves in just about every independent federation we can think of ... Nasty **Sam Lowe** is back, this time as a manager in the new Tennessee Wrestling Federation.

Rip Oliver captured the Pacific Northwest title from **Steve Doll** on September 28 in Portland, but used a foreign object handed to him by his son, **Larry**, as well his feet on the ropes. The popular, high-flying Doll insists that Oliver's title reign won't last long.

"A fluke victory for a coward," Doll called Oliver's big win. "Rip thinks he's the top dog in PNW because he's surrounded himself with flunkies, but I've got some friends, too. Rip will never believe the surprise I've got in store for him the next time we meet!"

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □



RIP OLIVER

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a couple of years makes.

It's hard *not* to think wistfully about days gone by when you watch a WWF program and, beneath the giant WWF logo that is posted above the entrance to the locker room area, you see the face of seven-time NWA/WCW World champion Ric Flair.

Then you turn and look over there, and you see the WWF World tag team champions, The Road Warriors—er, The Legion of Doom.

Changes in professional wrestling seem to occur at an unbelievably rapid pace. My goodness: It seems like only yesterday that my daughter was born, yet that was only a little more than two years ago. As I look back in my own life, two years—24 months, just 104 weeks—seems to have gone by in the proverbial blink of an eye.

Yet in wrestling terms, it is an eternity.

Looking back at the January 1990 edition of this magazine, the status changes of Flair and LOD stand out the most vividly. But there are so many more:



The Legion Of Doom

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

● Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson were WWF World tag team champions. Blanchard has since left the sport to become an evangelist, while Anderson has returned to WCW where he now holds the World tag team title with Larry Zbyszko—who, two years ago, was AWA World champion (that federation has since lost its world championship status in the eyes of this magazine; indeed, the AWA today is one step away from being totally inactive as a promotion).

● The tag team ratings two years ago included Demolition, The Skyscrapers, The Midnight Express, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, and Blanchard and Anderson; those teams no longer exist.

● The Honky Tonk Man and Rick Rude were competing at the top of WWF cards around the country. Today, both men keep only marginally active through occasional bouts on the independent scene.

● As Eddie Ellner noted in his "Insider" column elsewhere in this issue, Dusty Rhodes was parading around the WWF in a black spandex suit bedecked with yellow polka dots. Thankfully, the "American Dream" has regained a measure of his respectability as an official for WCW, has refereed several recent bouts in that federation, and is the focus of rumors that he may soon be returning to full-time ring action.

● Tidbits from Bill Apter's "Names Makin' News" column in our January 1990 issue: Randy Savage was being managed through a pronounced slump by Sensational Sherri; today Savage has dumped Sherri and is married to Elizabeth . . . Kerry Von Erich was challenging CWF champion Dennis Condrey, prompting Apter to note how "Von Erich is wrestling more and more matches away from his home turf"; "more and more" indeed! Von Erich subsequently went to the WWF and captured the Intercontinental title, a championship he would love to regain . . . Teddy Long was a WCW referee, and Apter reported how Long interfered in a match between Road Warrior Animal and Sid Vicious (he cost Animal a pinfall win); today, Long is a manager, while Animal and Vicious are both in the WWF.

Change is a constant factor in the sport of wrestling. Anyone who has been a fan for more than a year or so has learned to accept radical changes in federations and competitors. I have come to accept talent acquisitions, sudden departures from federations, fan favorites turning rulebreaker and vice versa, tag team partners turning against each other, and all the rest of it.

But I don't think I'll ever get used to seeing Ric Flair standing on a piece of canvas emblazoned with the WWF logo. □

If you can answer the
following questions, you
could be the next

**\$500
winner**

Actual questions

Who did Rick Martel defeat to win the AWA
World title (1984)?

- 1) Jumbo Tsuruta
- 2) Ivan Koloff
- 3) Stan Hansen
- 4) Larry Zbyszko

Which of these wrestlers was not in
Bodyslam?

- 1) Roddy Piper
- 2) Barbarian
- 3) Warlord

True or False: Ted DiBiase's parents were
both professional wrestlers.

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following wrestlers did not at-
tend West Texas State University?

- 1) Tito Santana
- 2) Wahoo McDaniel
- 3) Barry Windham
- 4) Dusty Rhodes

What 21-year-old was the youngest man
ever to hold the NWA World title?

- 1) Tommy Rich
- 2) Kerry Von Erich
- 3) Lou Thesz
- 4) Dory Funk Jr.

How did you do?

If you're up for the challenge and
want to put your wrestling knowledge
to work, call now and go for the \$500.

Take the
PRO Wrestling
ILLUSTRATED

challenge

BRAND NEW QUESTIONS!
(Beginning Oct. 1)

Answer 7 consecutive wrestling trivia
questions correctly and you can

win
\$500

PLUS: WEEKLY WINNERS receive a one-year
subscription to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*
Weekly. The cover price value is over \$100.

CALL NOW

1-900-288-7526

\$1.49 per minute. Kids, get your parents' permission.



**This service is available on both
rotary-dialed and touch-tone phones**

Wrestling Challenge Rules & Regulations: Call as often as you like. The contest begins March 19, 1991, and continues through March 19, 1992. There is no age restriction to participate. Kids, get your parents' permission before calling. The charge for each call is \$1.49 per minute. This contest is sponsored by G.C. London Publishing Associates in connection with *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine. No purchase necessary to participate. Complete rules and mail in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 374, Guilford, CT 06437-0374. To win, answer seven consecutive wrestling trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing for one \$500 winner and a weekly drawing for one winner of a one-year subscription to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*. The cover price value of an one-year subscription to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* is \$101.40. This contest is void where prohibited by law.

'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by David
Rosenbaum**

THESE DAYS IF you want to see Nikita Koloff, you'll have to go to Concord, North Carolina, and visit Nikita's Fortress of Fitness. It's a gym Koloff has owned for the past several years. Now it's his only means of employment.

You won't find Koloff wrestling at this gym. Often he'll be doing paperwork, attending to the ins and outs of the business, and occasionally going through a workout with a friend or new customer.

But Nikita doesn't wrestle anymore. One of the most promising careers in wrestling has ended.

"They were not fair to me," Koloff said in English that has improved remarkably over the years. "WCW would not give me shots at the World title, so I decided to stop bothering."

During the past year, Koloff converted from fan favorite to rulebreaker and embarked on a reign of terror in WCW. At times, he looked like the old Nikita, the man that was considered the next great world champion. At times, he lacked spark.

He feuded with Sting, but the title shots just weren't coming. After all these years, Nikita just had enough. But the end came too soon.

"It's hard to believe," said Magnum T.A., who engaged in a famous feud with Nikita before his own career ended in an car accident. "He was always so determined and in such great shape. He really has fallen short of everything that was expected of him."

Magnum was long ago disappointed with Nikita. In 1986, just after Magnum's accident, Nikita became a fan favorite and, in an offering of respect to his fallen ri-

(Continued on page 56)

ORDER THE BEST IN WRESTLING VIDEOS NOW!!

WRESTLEWAR '91 WAR GAMES *NEW!*

Two rings completely covered by a steel cage! Only the strong will survive! The WCW forces have amassed and there is only one solution to these rising tensions - War Games! A knock-down drag out blowout! Sting, Lex Luger, Stan Hansen, Doom, The Steiner Bros., Ric Flair, Arn Anderson and many more top stars of WCW.

Available 4/24/91

\$39.95/@90 min. Turner

MONSTERS OF THE MAT VOL. 7

Mat fans will experience action like never before! Get your ringside seat for all the spills and thrills as Ted DiBiase takes on Magnum T.A., The Shepherders & Jack Victory meet The Fantastics & Terry Taylor; and Brett Sawyer battles Gustav Mendoza.

Only limited quantities available!

\$39.95/62 min.

GREAT AMERICAN BASH '86

It was sports history in the making, back in the summer of '86! Highlights include: Dusty Rhodes vs. Ric Flair in a Steel Cage for the NWA World Heavyweight Title; The Road Warriors vs. The Russians; Baby Doll, Dusty Rhodes & Magnum T.A. vs. Jim Cornette, The Midnight Express and Big Bubba; Jimmy Valiant vs. Shaska Whatley, Magnum T.A. vs. Nikita Koloff and more!

Only limited quantities available!
\$39.95/@90 min. Turner

STARRCADE '86 THE SKYWALKERS

From the Omni in Atlanta and the Greensboro, N.C. Coliseum. Highlights include: NWA champ Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff; Road Warriors vs. Midnight on a scaffold; "First Blood" match: Rhodes vs. Blanchard, Ron Garvin vs. Big Bubba; Rock 'n Rolls vs. Anderson in a cage; Jones vs. Valiant.

Only limited quantities

\$39.95/@90 min. Turner

STARRCADE '90 COLLISION COURSE

Sting vs. the Black Scorpion! The first ever Tag Team Championship of the Universe! Lex Luger vs. Stan Hansen for the U.S. Heavyweight Championship. Doom vs. Ric Flair & Arn Anderson.

\$39.95/125 min. Turner

MASTERS OF MAYHEM

World championship wrestling includes outrageous, out-of-control headslamming action. You'll see Randy Savage, Jerry Lawler, Rick Rude, The Road Warriors, Dutch Mantell, Dirty White Boys, The Interns, Junkyard Dog, midgets and much more!

\$19.95/90 min.

WARLORDS OF THE RING

Randy "Macho Man" Savage is locked in a cage of no escape with Ronnie Garvin for an unbelievable fight! Nikolai Volkoff takes on King Kong Brody in and out of the ring. Angelo Poffo manhandles Tony Fable in an unforgettable match of wrestling know-how and power. Also: Pez Whatley vs. Chief Don Eagle, Iron Mike Sharpe, The Stallion and more!

\$19.95/@90 min.



Please send me the following videos:

Title _____ Price _____

Shipping & handling _____

TOTAL _____

1-3 videos - \$3.00

4-7 videos - \$6.00

(Allow up to 4 weeks for delivery. Foreign orders must include \$6.00 for each tape for air mail delivery. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY. No PAL, only NTSC. Defective tapes may be returned for a duplicate tape.)

SEND COMPLETED ORDER TO: T.V.SPORTS VIDEO INC.
P.O.BOX 1672
GREENWICH, CT 06836

For Visa & MasterCard orders only call 1-800-729-0360

- ☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed (Make checks payable to T.V.Sports Video Inc.)
- ☐ Visa or MasterCard # _____

Exp. date: month _____ year _____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NO C.O.D.'S!

THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE CLASS OF '85?

Perception vs. reality: Long be-

fore they started forming the basis of every advertising campaign, I used the distinction between perception and reality to emphasize how dissimilar the public perception of certain wrestlers was compared to the grim reality of their actions.

Each month, I booed your heroes in print—favorite targets be-

ing Rick Morton, Robert Gibson, Dusty Rhodes, Andre the Giant, Hulk Hogan, and the Von Erichs. This was 1985, and these men owned professional wrestling—or so it seemed, given the favorable press they received in our magazines.

Because of my attitude, the labels "maverick" and "renegade" were quickly affixed to my name, and a disclaimer, disassociating my views with those of the prevailing editorial philosophy of this and the company's other magazines, appeared next to my columns.

It wasn't long before I began to receive death threats from wrestling fans, some scribbled in crayon, others from men whose last names, for varying periods of time, had been replaced by numbers.

I was vilified by certain colleagues who felt my opinions interfered with the relationships they had developed with the wrestlers. (They shall go nameless, though the worst offender is shorter than the national average, has less hair than the national average, and has a lower IQ than the national average.)

So, for separating myself (and those few readers who came along for the ride) from the common ranks, I've risked life, limb, professional reputation—and the ability to get a soda at a local arena without being confronted by some drooling halfwit wishing to discuss a recent column.

(Continued on page 58)



The Robert Gibson-Richard Morton feud confirms for Ellner what he'd suspected for years: the only Rock 'n' Roll Express match worth watching is one *between* Morton and Gibson.



H O T L I N E

When it comes to wrestling, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine has all the inside information you want and it's only a phone call away.

If it happens in the ring, the locker room, or on the road, you'll hear it here first.

To get all the breaking stories from every federation, call the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Hotline now and you'll be the first to learn about . . .

Exclusive news from behind the scenes

Upcoming events

Up-to-date results from around the world

Title changes and transactions

Up-to-date ratings

Eddie Ellner's "Off The Top Rope"

Plus . . . Tell the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* what you want to see in the magazine. Dictate a letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Selected letters will be printed in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

CALL NOW

IN THE U.S. 1-900-884-4PWI

IN THE U.K. 0898 805 530



This service is available on both rotary-dial and touch-tone phones

* Cost per minute in the United States is \$1.49 per. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is 34p cheap rate and 45p at all other times incl. VAT. Kids, get your parents' permission.

BCM Box 6424, London, WC1N 3XX

**NOW AVAILABLE
IN THE UNITED
KINGDOM**



IN THE U.K. 0898 805 530

IN THE U.S. 1-900-884-4PWI

A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

AS A REPORTER searching for big scoops, I would have preferred running into Hulk Hogan or Lex Luger or Ric Flair in the Hyatt Hotel coffee shop. But as a single woman lonely for some safe entertainment to relieve the boredom of a four-day road trip, there is no one I would have preferred running into more than "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin.

"Lizzy Hunter!" a voice screamed over the din of crashing plates and glasses. "Lizzy Hunter, is that you? Is that you? That's you sitting over there. I know it is!"

Over the years, I've gotten very good at shrinking into my plate to avoid certain undesirables. It was impossible to mistake that voice. It was impossible to suppress a smile.

"Jimmy Garvin," I grinned. "Long time no see. What's it been? Two, three years? Won't you join me for breakfast?" Of course, by the time I extended an invitation, Garvin had already hunkered down to the table and was busily chomping on a sweet roll.

"Waiter, waiter!" he cried. "Two bottles of Perrier Jouet, a half-gallon of fresh squeezed orange juice and two dozen fresh—I repeat, *fresh*—strawberries. It ain't my fault it's mimosa time!"

It ain't my fault. How long has it been since I heard Garvin say that? That was his tag line back in the days when Garvin traveled the NWA circuit with his infamous and luscious valet, Precious. It was Garvin, along with Exotic



Freebird Jimmy Garvin, now a fan favorite, recently recounted for Liz Hunter some of the more memorable moments in his topsy-turvy career.

Adrian Street, who pioneered the use of valets for, how shall we put it, *immoral purposes*.

To this day, it's impossible to forget the lingering odor of *Eau de Garvin*, the perfume Precious would spray around the ring, heralding Garvin's arrival. How many times did the noxious scent find its way into the eyes of Garvin's opponents? I thought I'd ask.

"A lot!" Garvin grinned at the memory. "A helluva lot! Precious shocked the hell out of people.

No one believed that someone that pretty could be that vicious, especially the referees. God, could she charm the stripes off the officials. She even surprised me. I never once told her to use the perfume. It was her own idea. Most of the time, it was to add insult to injury. My opponents were so badly beaten by then, her little squirt would just reinforce the humiliation.

"But there were probably a few
(Continued on page 60)

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

COLLECTORS' EXTRAVAGANZA!

No wrestling magazine anywhere is more respected than *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. And no editions of *PWI* are more coveted by collectors than the very special issues you see here!

THE BIG ONES

Each of these spectacular year-end issues is 100 pages in length—packed with full-color!—with full details of the "Achievement Awards" for the year just ended. Plus, you get special features like the "PWINDEX," the "Year In Review," "Unofficial Official Awards," "Predictions," and more. AVAILABLE: **March 1988** (1987 in review), **March 1989** (1988 in review), **March 1990** (1989 in review), **March 1991** (1990 in review).



ANNIVERSARY SPECTACULARS

Two remarkable anniversary celebrations were marked with magnificent once-in-a-lifetime 100-page issues of *PWI*. **December 1987**: Our 100th issue! Nineteen pages of full color! Features include: The 10 Most Influential Wrestlers of the *PWI* Years, The 10 Greatest Events of the *PWI* Years, "Unofficial Official Awards" of the *PWI* Years, Behind The Scenes at *PWI*, and much more! **September 1989**: Sensational 10th anniversary issue! Eighteen pages of full color! Features include: Special Analysis: 12 Who Made A Difference, 10th Anniversary Book of Lists, *PWI* Superstats, a look back to our first issue, and much more!



SUPERCARDS

The *PWI* "SuperCards" editions set new standards for wrestling journalism. Bonus pages, special 12-page color sections, the popular "Book of Lists," and in-depth analyses highlight these magnificent volumes. AVAILABLE: **September 1986**: WrestleMania II, Crockett Cup I, Parade Of Champions III, WrestleRock '86. **September 1987**: WrestleMania III, Crockett Cup II, UWF Superblast, Parade Of Champions IV. **September 1988**: WrestleMania IV, Crockett Cup III, AWA Rage in the Cage, Clash of the Champions.



Make check or money order payable and mail to:

T.V. SPORTS

BOX 48

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

\$5 each

Please send me the special *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* back issues I have checked.
I enclose \$5 (U.S. FUNDS ONLY) for each one I am ordering.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

All other countries \$7 per issue ordered (Int'l money order only). Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

- ☐ September 1986
- ☐ September 1987
- ☐ December 1987
- ☐ March 1988
- ☐ September 1988
- ☐ March 1989
- ☐ September 1989
- ☐ March 1990
- ☐ March 1991

Total amount enclosed _____

In case of sellout, please indicate substitute issue: _____

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

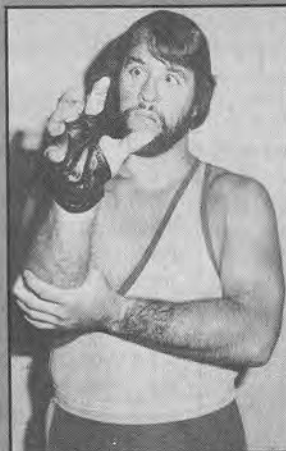
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



CURT HENNIG

"Mr. Perfect" is now recuperating at his Minnesota home because of the serious neck and back injuries, which sidelined him for several weeks before he lost the WWF Intercontinental title to Bret Hart at SummerSlam '91.

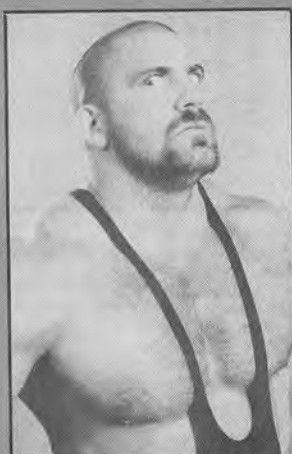
The early diagnosis was that Hennig would miss two months of action, but physicians have advised him to stay out the ring for at least six months. Regardless, Hennig claims he'll regain the I-C belt.



DON JARDINE

The man who was feared throughout the wrestling world as The Spoiler is now retired from the sport and living in Tampa, Florida. During the height of his career, Jardine injured hundreds of fan favorites with his crushing iron claw.

"But that's all over now," reported Jardine. "I was smart, held on to my money, and now I'm living a life of leisure. Now I can reflect back on my great career—one that nobody will ever duplicate."



NIKITA KOLOFF

The "Russian Nightmare" is tending to his famous gym, Koloff's Fortress Of Fitness, in Concord, North Carolina, after leaving WCW. The brutal rule-breaker continues to fume over the fact that he was not ever granted title matches

against WCW World champion Lex Luger. "The officials never recognized my victories over Sting," growled Koloff. "I have no use for them!" Nikita has not scheduled any future wrestling appearances.



SCOTT NORTON

Huge 360-pound "Flash" has become a major star in Japan. The massive former superheavyweight arm-wrestling champion recently scored the biggest victory of his career when he pinned Big Van Vader, long considered a leg-

end in the Orient. "I finally feel I've made it in my second sport," said Norton, a former Pacific Northwest champion. "I can't wait to return to the U.S. and show the fans just how much I've improved."

INSIDE WRESTLING

186

CAPSULE PROFILE

RICHARD MORTON is a member in good standing of The York Foundation (*"The greatest organization in the world, man!"*) ... Began his career in Tennessee in the late-1970s ... Teamed with Eddie Gilbert in 1981 and the two went on to capture the Mid-Southern tag team championship (*"Eddie was a load of laughs"*) ... In Texas, Morton won the Southwest tag team title with Ken Lucas ... After Lucas retired, Morton began competing in singles matches ... Returned to Tennessee, where he met up with his old friend, Robert Gibson (*"Old friend, my foot!"*) ... They both wrestled as singles for several months before deciding to team ... Wrestled their first match as The Rock 'n' Roll Express in February 1983 ... In early-1984, they defeated The Midnight Express to win the Mid-South tag belts (*"Naturally, I masterminded the victory"*) ... A second Mid-South tag title reign was ended on May 3, 1985, by Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams (*"Blame Gibson for that one"*) ... Shortly thereafter, the duo headed to the NWA ... Won their first of four NWA World tag team championships on July 9, 1985, in Shelby, North Carolina, defeating Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev (*"I will admit; there was some chemistry there between me and Gibson"*)

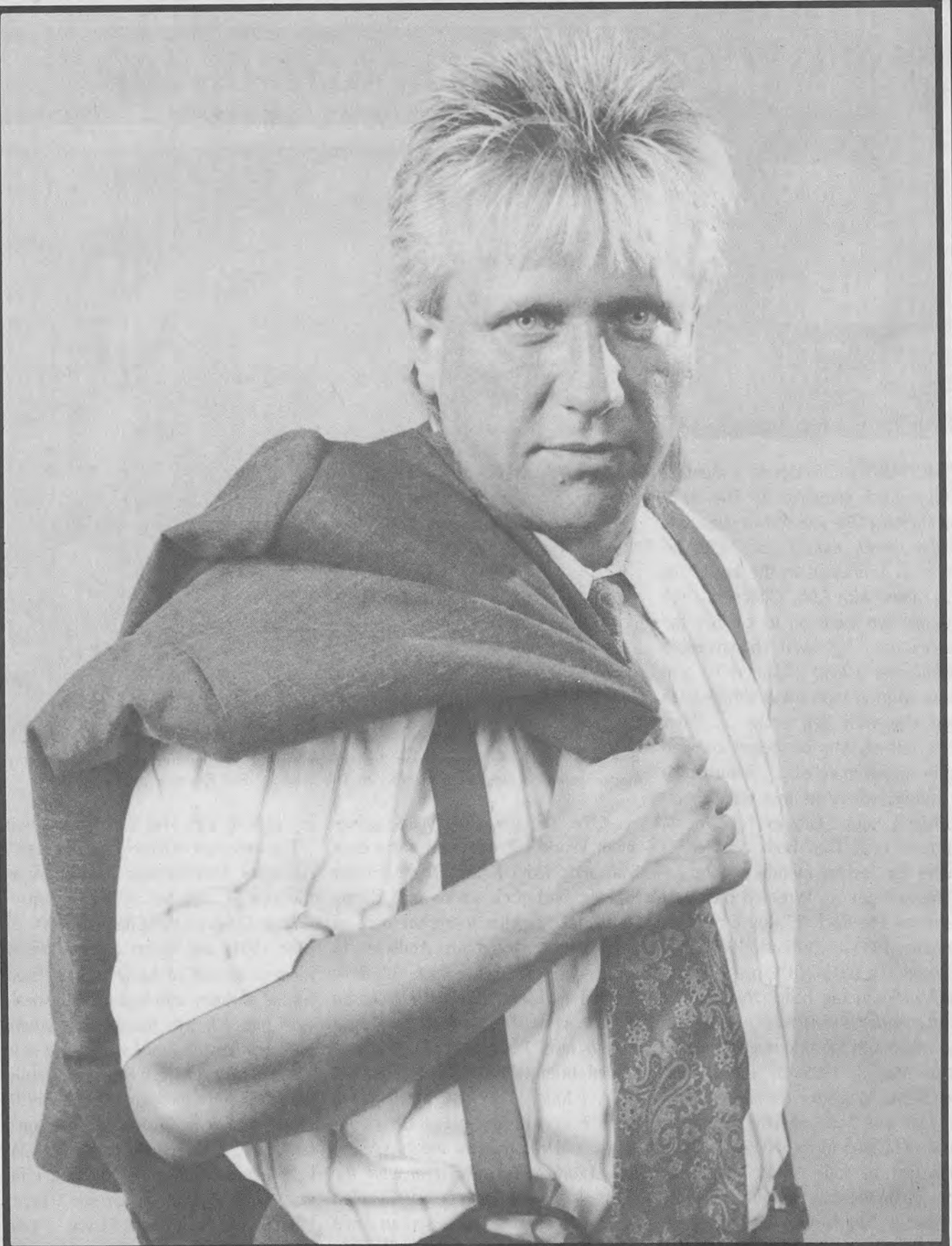


Richard Morton once teamed with Dustin Rhodes, but now he considers him an enemy. Morton achieved fame as a member of The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

... Over the next two years, subsequent World tag title wins came over Ivan and Nikita Koloff, The Midnight Express, and Rick Rude and Manny Fernandez ... After losing the belts to Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson in September 1987, the Rock 'n' Rolls decided to leave the NWA (*"Gibson didn't have what it took to keep us at a high level"*) ... In 1988, the duo feuded briefly in the Memphis-based CWA (*"Kind of a look at things to come"*) ... Reconciled their differences, and returned to the NWA (*"A fifth World title seemed around the corner"*) ... The Express was derailed when Gibson suffered a serious knee injury in September 1990 (*"Do you realize how much money he cost me?"*) ... Alexandra York began woo-

ing him to join The York Foundation (*"The lady was making a lot of sense"*) ... After Morton was introduced as the newest member of the organization at Clash of the Champions XV in June 1991, and began calling himself Richard instead of Rick, he brutalized his old partner, who had tried to speak with him (*"It was too late for apologies, brother, he was looking at a new Richard Morton"*) ... Feuded instantly with Gibson throughout the 1991 Great American Bashes ... Morton's latest goal is the newly created WCW light heavyweight title, for which he was scheduled to wrestle Brian Pillman at Halloween Havoc (*"Like Gibson, Pillman is a pretty boy who needs to learn not to get in my face!"*) □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



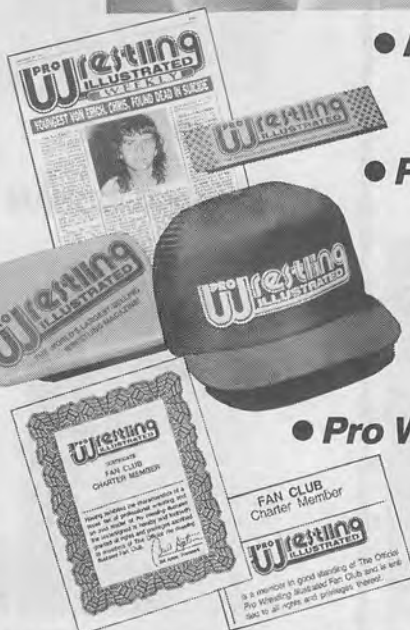
RICHARD MORTON

JOIN THE **PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED** FAN CLUB

With your \$14.95 membership,
**YOU WILL RECEIVE OVER \$70
IN VALUABLE WRESTLING
MERCHANDISE AND
DISCOUNTS.**

Here's what you get:

- **Color Special #1** Featuring a giant 22" x 32" full-color foldout of The Legion of Doom
- **Color Special #8** Featuring a giant 22" x 32" full-color foldout of Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff



- **A copy of Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly**
- **Pro Wrestling Illustrated Bumper Sticker**
- **Official Pro Wrestling Illustrated Hat**
- **Pro Wrestling Illustrated Pin**
- **Super Fan Certificate**
- **Membership Card**

PLUS

With your membership you will receive a discount on wrestling videos, a 33% discount on back issue orders of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, subscription discounts, and other special offers throughout the year.

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE AND SEND TO:

T.V. SPORTS
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP IS
ONLY \$14.95 (A \$70 VALUE)

YES, I am a super fan and would like to join the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Fan Club. I have enclosed \$14.95 for a one-year membership (shipping and handling charges included). Please send my membership package to:

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

All memberships outside the United States \$19.95. International money orders only. Please allow three to four weeks for delivery.

NEWS FROM THE

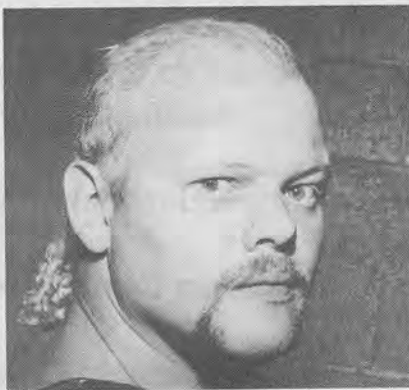
If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

SCOTTSBURG, IN By Clarence Grigsby



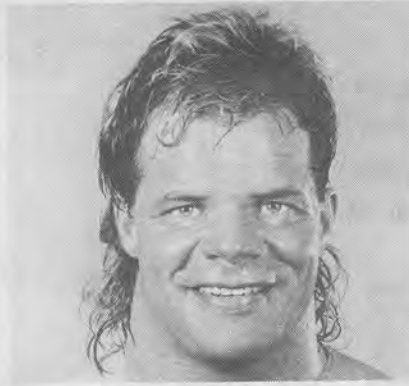
**ERIC EMBRY
vs.
TONY ANTHONY**



This was a seesaw battle all the way, and neither wrestler seemed to care about the rules. Taking advantage of an Embry mistake, "Dirty White Boy" Anthony pinned Eric, using the ropes for leverage. But referee Frank Morell saw what happened and ordered the match to continue. Undetected by Morell, Embry nailed Anthony with a chain and pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: Robert Fuller, Jeff Jarrett, & Tony Anthony defeated Eric Embry, Bruiser, & Dragon Master ... Bill Dundee pinned Bull Pain ... Dutch Mantel defeated Billy Travis by disqualification ... Jeff Jarrett beat Dragon Master ... Robert Fuller defeated Bruiser.

BRISTOL, TN By Charles Barnette



**LEX LUGER
vs.
BARRY WINDHAM**



At the start of the bout, Luger's adviser, Harley Race, distracted Windham, giving the advantage to Lex. Several times over the next few minutes, however, Windham nearly pinned Luger. After Barry powerslammed Lex and got a 2½-count, Lex threw Barry out of the ring. Then, while Mr. Hughes distracted the referee, Race and Luger pounced on Barry. After the referee returned to the ring, Lex pinned Barry with a pull of the trunks.

OTHER BOUTS: P.N. News beat Zan Panzer ... Thomas Rich pinned Mike Graham ... The Patriots defeated The Freebirds by disqualification ... Bobby Eaton pinned Thomas Rich ... Dustin Rhodes & Tom Zenk beat The Freebirds.

ALLENTOWN, PA By W.R. Martrich



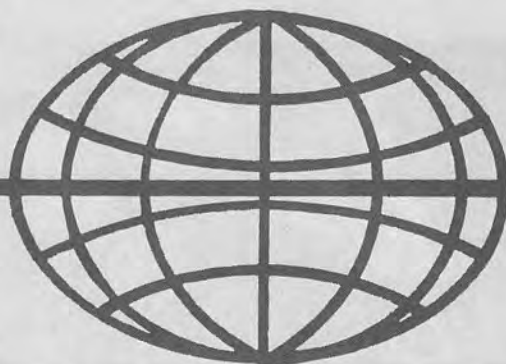
**BIG BOSSMAN
vs.
THE MOUNTIE**



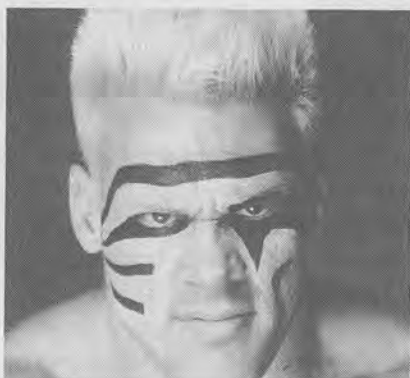
Eighteen days after spending the night in a New York City jail, Mountie received a chance for revenge in a cage match. Mountie stung Bossman with his cattle prod, but Mountie recovered and slammed Mountie into the cage. Reeling from Bossman's attack, Mountie resorted to using a chain he had taped around his boot. Mountie then tried handcuffing Bossman to the ring ropes, but Bossman got the cuffs on Mountie instead, and walked through the cage door for the win.

OTHER BOUTS: Koko B. Ware pinned Brooklyn Brawler ... Irwin R. Schyster pinned Tony Atlas ... Jimmy Snuka beat The Barbarian ... Marty Jannetty & Jim Powers defeated Pat Tanaka & Col. Mustafa ... Hacksaw Duggan beat Typhoon.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



GREENSBORO, NC By Paul Haven



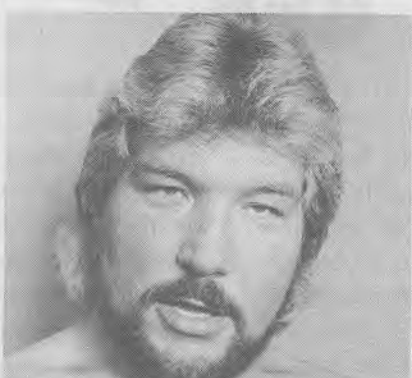
**STING
vs.
ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**



It would be hard to imagine two more different wrestlers than the high-flying, charismatic U.S. champion Sting, and the blubbery, violent Abdullah the Butcher. The "Stinger" tried to make an actual wrestling match out of this contest, but Abdullah continuously resorted to cheap, nasty tactics. Finally, both men ended up battling outside the ring and were counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: Van Hammer defeated Zan Panzer ... Cactus Jack beat Bobby Eaton ... Tom Zenk, Big Josh, & Dustin Rhodes defeated Richard Morton, Thomas Rich, & Terrence Taylor ... Rick Steiner beat Diamond Studd ... The Enforcers defeated The Patriots ... Barry Windham & Ron Simmons beat Lex Luger & Mr. Hughes.

MILWAUKEE, WI By Edgar Smythe



**TED DIBIASE
vs.
VIRGIL**



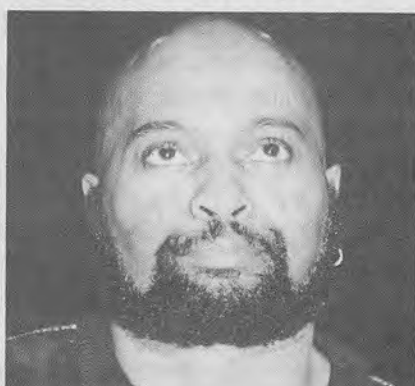
"Million-Dollar Man" DiBiase has been hot on Virgil's trail ever since he lost the "million-dollar belt" to his former bodyguard at SummerSlam. There were moments throughout this encounter when it appeared as though DiBiase would in fact get the job done, but Virgil managed to resist being pinned. DiBiase did garner the victory, but he did it by countout, so the belt did not change hands.

OTHER BOUTS: Berzerker defeated Hercules ... The Beverly Brothers beat The Bushwhackers ... The Legion of Doom defeated The Nasty Boys ... Rick Steamboat pinned Skinner ... Bret Hart defeated Warlord ... Sid Justice beat The Undertaker in a casket match.

DALLAS, TX By Hank Sothern



**THE PATRIOT
vs.
BAD NEWS BROWN**



Brown, a skilled scientific grappler, mixed that technical wizardry with brawling tactics in a solid effort to wrest the North American belt from Patriot, who has quickly established a reputation for taking on all comers. Just as Patriot appeared ready to turn back the challenge, Brown received outside interference from The Soultaker, causing Bad News' disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Scott Anthony & Rip Rogers defeated The American Breed ... John Tatum & Rod Price battled to a double-disqualification against Gary Young & Jeff Gaylord ... The Renegade Warriors beat The Texas Outlaws ... The Handsome Stranger pinned Buster Blackheart ... Steve Dane pinned Chaz.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

DALLAS, TX: Eternal sadness. Chris Von Erich, the youngest of this famous wrestling family, died on September 12 of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The first reaction is to think about his parents. Doris and Fritz Von Erich have now suffered through the deaths of four children and a grandchild. They have watched in helpless anguish as their family has been diminished beyond all reason, against all odds. Eternal sadness for Doris and Fritz, who can summon their faith in their deep-rooted religious beliefs. But how will they deal with the quiet moments?

PROVIDENCE, RI: Ran into Eddie Ellner here and I think we both agree on this: The WWF's "King of the Ring" tournament never was, isn't, and never will be. It is one of the most unexciting events on the WWF calendar, partly because the WWF does so little to hype it, partly because the best wrestlers don't show up. Sure, the whole thing was won by Intercontinental champion Bret Hart, but the "Hitman" beat Pete Doherty (isn't he a sportswriter?) in the first round, The Skinner in the second round, got a bye in the semifinal, then beat Irwin R. Schyster in the final. Not too impressive, and certainly not



BRET HART

nearly as impressive as Hart's performance in the Royal Rumble in 1988. In that event, Hart outlasted several wrestlers for more than 35 minutes before getting eliminated. He didn't win, but he won some respect. He *did* win the "King" tourney, but gained little respect. Of course, it's not Hart's fault that he didn't beat anyone important to become "King of the Ring." It's the WWF's fault for not insuring the quality of this once-a-year event. Besides, if we have a World champion and an I-C champ, do we really need a king of the ring? By the way: Bravo, Jack Tunney. You did the right thing with Randy Savage. The man's a great wrestler, but he should take his medicine. Goodbye, Savage.



ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER VS. THE SHEIK

PHILADELPHIA, PA: The independents are doing some good things these days. The Tri-State Wrestling Alliance's Autumn Armageddon II was one of those events that most wrestling fans didn't see, but should've. Some of the top stars in the sport—Owen Hart, Terry Funk, Kevin Sullivan, Eddie Gilbert, Madusa Miceli, Abdullah the Butcher, Cactus Jack, Bam Bam Bigelow—were on hand for this one, and they didn't disappoint. Everyone's talking about the Owen Hart-Takayuki Iizuka match, a 21-minute beauty. But the bout I'll never forget was between

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

Abdullah and The Sheik, a barbed-wire steel cage match that should've been banned in the first place. Well, I'm going to get off my platform for a minute, forget about what's right and what's wrong, and say that I sat there enjoying every blood-curdling minute. To say that Abdullah and Sheik get down to basics is an understatement. They get far *lower* than the basics. These guys really went at it, and both looked worse after the match than they did before, which is really saying something. By the time Abdullah backed out of the cage for the win, the fans at Pennsylvania Hall were screaming for more blood. Well, they got it. As Abdullah and Sheik continued to maul each other, Sabu, Sullivan, Funk, Cactus Jack, and Bigelow started going at it, brawling throughout the building. There wasn't a bad seat in the house for over 20 minutes. Actually, for that time, every seat in the house was a front row seat. It was like catching a foul ball at a wrestling match. Tried to talk with both men after the bout, but it was a waste of time. Abdullah mumbled. Sheik tried to spit blood at my face. Missed. This reporter ducked just in time. The reflexes are still there! I'm faster than The Sheik when he's missing two quarts of blood.

ATLANTA, GA: A WCW TV taping, and I'm still not used to Ric Flair not being around. It's going to be a long time (maybe never) before they replace this guy. Figure this: How many Bruno Sammartinos have there been? How many Hulk Hogans? Now, how many Ric Flairs? Only one of each, and there's been pro wrestling in this country for more than 100 years. Well, we're willing to wait. Besides, Sting and Lex Luger aren't bad substitutes, even if it's not the same. Anyway, not much to report from here. Abdullah was on this card, too (it was a few days before Autumn Armageddon) and he lost to Bobby Eaton—by disqualification, of course. Terrence Taylor beat young Terry Bronson, and Cactus Jack and The Young Pistols won their matches. Meanwhile, it's looking more and more like we'll soon see Sting vs. Luger for the World title. Bring 'em on! Luger has been wrestling Barry Windham these days, and while the matches have been good, it's not really what I'm looking for. What I'm looking for is the next Flair or Hogan, and until Luger and Sting go at it a few dozen times, we're sure not to find him. But who really knows?



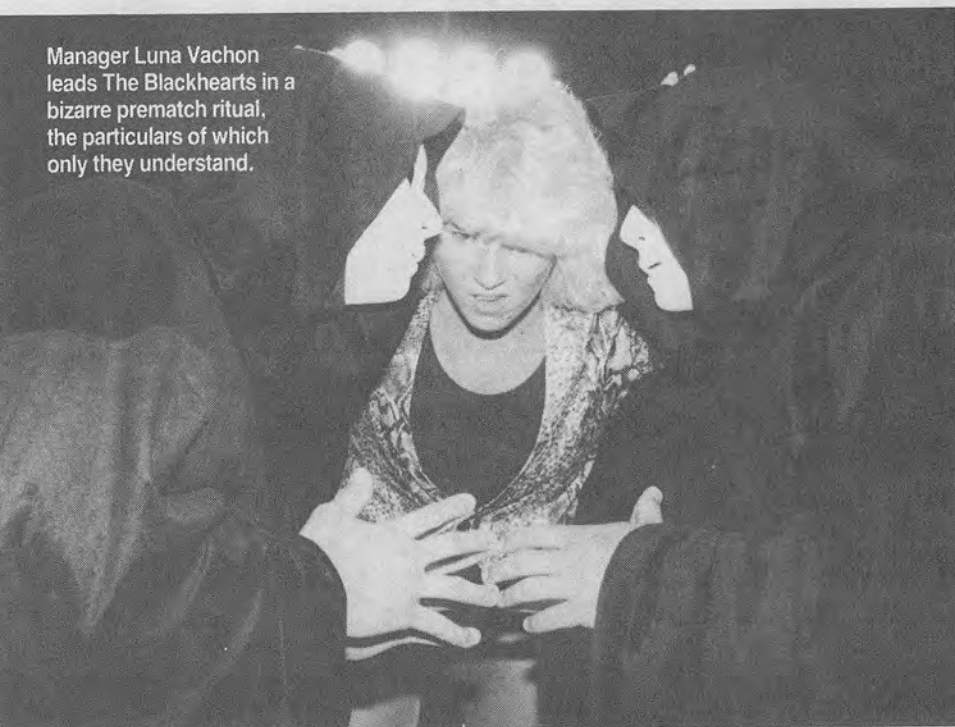
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN: THEN AND NOW



NEW YORK, NY: The city that never sleeps. Madison Square Garden looks less like the Garden every day. Took a cab by the place the other day and saw an entirely new entrance. About 30 years ago—at the *old* Garden—there used to be a marquee out front. About 30 years ago, the fans were hanging from the balcony for wrestling matches, and Vince McMahon Jr. was a pup. About 20 years ago, Bruno Sammartino would have wrestled in the “King of the Ring” tournament. Hogan didn't, so what does that tell you about the passage of time? □

THE BLACKHEARTS

Manager Luna Vachon leads The Blackhearts in a bizarre prematch ritual, the particulars of which only they understand.



Not long ago, they were total unknowns.

But now, The Blackhearts have become the fastest-rising duo in the sport. Where did these mysterious black-clad maulers come from? Only devious manager Luna Vachon knows, and she's not telling!

WRESTLIN AWESOME

SPORTS:

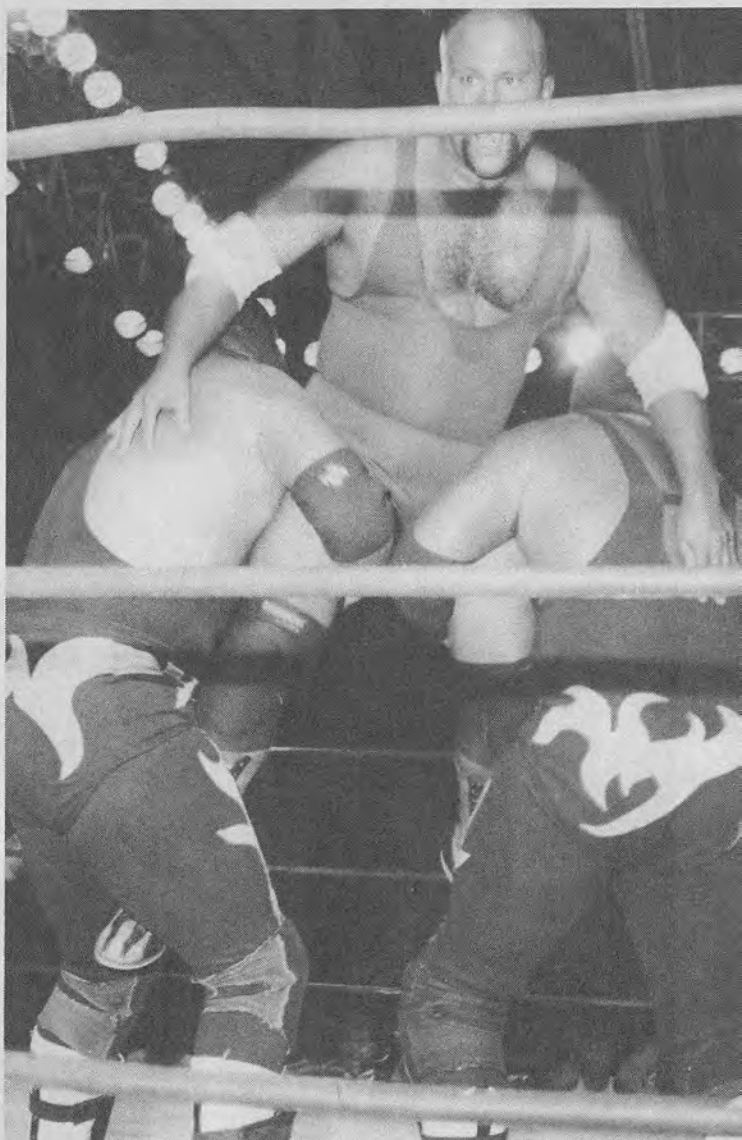
By Bob Smith

WHEREVER LUNA VACHON and her team—The Blackhearts—appear, they insist on having their own dressing room. That's just as well. If other wrestlers were privy to what these odd creatures did within the confines of their assigned space, nobody would want to be around them, anyway.

Theirs is one of the strangest prematch rituals ever devised. Apocalypse and Destruction don their totally black tights and head coverings. After they put on their hooded robes and white plastic face coverings, Vachon pours some powder into a small porcelain bowl, then lights it with a match.

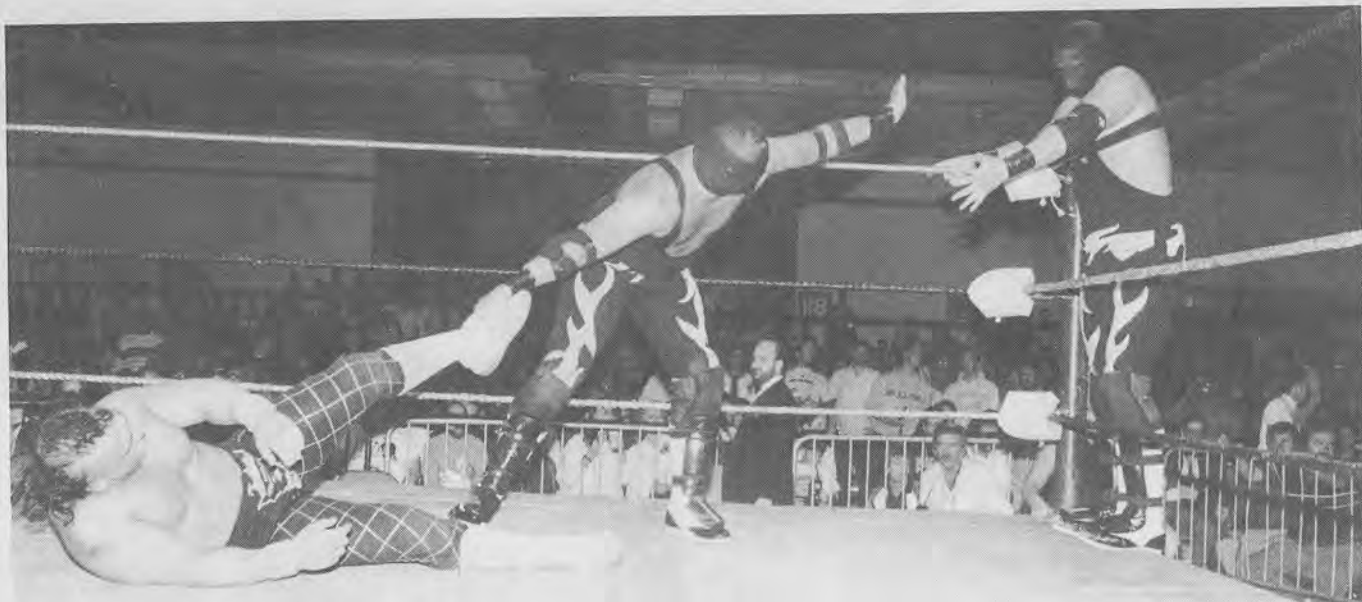
As the three barbarians drop to their knees in servitude, the bowl explodes, filling the dressing area with black smoke. Immediately, The Blackhearts and Vachon start emitting strange, high-pitched squeals. What is this ritual about?

Photos by Roy London & Duane Long



Strange practices aside, The Blackhearts are a solid tag team that currently holds the Tri-State tag belts. Vachon says that title is only the start toward becoming the most dominant team in the sport.

G'S MOST UNKNOWN



The Blackhearts used quick tags (above) and precise double-teaming methods (left) to win the Tri-State tag team title from Johnny Hot Body and D.C. Drake.



"This ceremony goes back 2,000 years," claims Vachon, the youngest member of the famous Canadian wrestling family. "You'd never understand it."

Most likely, we wouldn't. But why the black face coverings? Why all the mysterious trappings? Who trained The Blackhearts—and where have they come from?

"That's none of your business," said Vachon, whose voice sounds as if she gargles with rusty razor blades. "Drop dead!"

Although Vachon is keeping the identities of her masked men unknown, she hasn't been able to conceal their vast talents. The Blackhearts were virtually unknown as 1991 began.

But as this year draws to a close, Apocalypse and Destruction have become a major force in the UWF, Japan, and the Tri-State Wrestling Alliance, where they've captured the federation's tag team title.

How far have The Blackhearts advanced? In the December 1991 issue of *Wrestling Superstars*, there was an analysis of the top 20 tag teams in the sport. These relative newcomers finished 12th—far ahead of more seasoned teams like Power & Glory, The Orient Express, and The Bushwhackers. That's quite an achievement for a duo most U.S. fans have never seen.

"I have knowledge of powers that I haven't even imparted to them yet," growled Vachon, who refuses to let

either of her proteges speak. "You will see more, but you will not understand."

In a way, Vachon's mysterious methods have distracted fans from the real reason why The Blackhearts have advanced so far, so fast: They're exciting, immensely talented *wrestlers*. Both men stand about 6'4" and weigh in excess of 260 pounds, but both are risk-taking high-flyers.

Before their title defense on September 21 in Philadelphia, Tri-State tag team champions Johnny Hot Body and D.C. Drake knew of The Blackhearts' reputation for savagery—but not *all* about it.

"I expect a slugfest, that's all," said Hot Body before heading for the ring. "But nobody can beat our 'Dog Pound' when it comes to mixing it up."

That may be true, but what Drake and Hot Body didn't know ended up hurting them. From the opening bell, The Blackhearts rocked the champions with flying shoulderblocks, flying axhandles off the ropes, even double-dropkicks. When Apocalypse pinned Drake, he scored what was considered by Tri-State fans to be a major upset.

(Continued on page 62)

WHEN CAPT. LOU ALBANO TALKS, PEOPLE LISTEN!

"I've been around the sport of professional wrestling for 40 years, and I've read every story in the world's best wrestling magazines—**PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED**, **THE WRESTLER**, **INSIDE WRESTLING**, **SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING**, **WRESTLING SUPERSTARS**, AND **WRESTLING 90**.

"As 'Captain' of the **WRESTLING CLASSICS** magazine, it is my privilege to gather the very best stories every printed in those great magazines and fit them into one very special publication. **WRESTLING CLASSICS** is a must-read for fans who want to know a little bit more about this sport than just who won yesterday's match!"

A LIMITED NUMBER OF **CAPT. LOU ALBANO PRESENTS . . . WRESTLING CLASSICS**—EACH WITH FOUR PAGES OF DAZZLING COLOR—ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR JUST \$3 EACH!



Make check payable and send to:

TV SPORTS

BOX 48

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

ONLY \$3 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked.

I enclose \$3 for each issue I've ordered.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

APT# _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Print your name
and address clearly

For all orders except U.S., you must add \$1.50 for each issue to be delivered by boat mail, and \$3 for each issue to be delivered by air mail. Int'l money order only. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.



☐ **Nov. 1989:** Exclusive Photos Of A Lifetime! Hulk Hogan—From The Cradle To The Throne. Plus: Rhodes (1982), Flair (1980), Snuka (1981), Sullivan (1973), Rich-Sawyer (1984), Lord Al Hays (1973), Classic Ratings (1979). Future Classics: Savage, Steamboat.

☐ **Jan. 1990:** Roddy Piper's Title Match With Ric Flair Ends In Chaos! (1983). Plus: Sammartino (1977), Von Raschke (1972), Zbyszko (1981), Rhodes (1977), Andre-Ladd (1977), Hogan-Blackwell (1982), Kevin Von Erich (1984), Classic Ratings (1975). Future Classics: Sting, Warrior-Rude.

☐ **March 1990:** The Most Vicious Wrestlers Of Our Time: Terry Funk (1976), Kowalski (1972), Sheik (1974), Brody (1983), Hogan (1980), Blassie (1982), Steele (1973), Abdullah (1982), Hansen (1978), Classic Ratings (1980). Future Classics: AWA Team Series, Valentine-Garvin.

☐ **April 1990:** A Decade Of Feuds: Bruno-Zbyszko (1980), Andre-Khan (1981), Backlund-Snuka (1982), Piper-Valentine (1984), Slaughter-Sheik (1984), Flair-Nikita (1985), Hogan-Orndorff (1986). Classic Ratings (1980). Future Classics: Duggan, Luger.

☐ **May 1990:** Shockers! The World Title Upsets That Changed History: Rich-Race (1981), Koloff-Sammartino (1971), Graham-Sammartino (1977), Andre-Hogan (1988), Thesz-Rogers (1973), Stasiak-Morales (1974), Funk-Brisco (1976). Classic Ratings (1972). Future Classics: Andre & Haku, Zenk.

☐ **July 1990:** WrestleMania! The Grandeur & The Glory: An In-Depth Look At WrestleManias I-V. Classic WrestleMania VI Fold-out: Hogan-Ultimate Warrior. Classic Ratings (1985). Future Classics: Skyscrapers-Road Warriors, Lawler-JYD.

☐ **Sept. 1990:** Capt. Lou Albano Picks . . . The Ugliest Wrestlers Ever! Firpo (1972), Bundy (1984), Mayne (1973), Curry (1965), Steele (1978), Abdullah (1976), Rhodes (1982), Kabuki (1982), Missing Link (1985). Classic Ratings (1982). Future Classics: Orndorff, Orient Express.

☐ **Nov. 1990:** The Legion Of Doom—They Dine On Danger And Snack On Death: Six stories tracing The Road Warriors' brilliant career. Bonus: The Greatest Tag Teams In History. Classic Ratings (1983). Future Classics: Savage-Elizabeth, Kevin Von Erich.

☐ **Jan. 1991:** Wrestling Reaches New Heights: A Special Tribute To The Sport's Giants: Andre (1974), Baba (1970), Studd (1983), Vicious (1989), Ladd (1976), Hogan (1983), Convict (1970), Andre-Jonathan (1972). Classic Ratings (1973). Future Classics: Sting, Kerry Von Erich.

☐ **March 1991:** Tag Team Of World Champions! The Ultimate Warrior & Sting: Can It Happen Again? Plus: Valentine (1972), Flair (1977), Martel (1985), Slaughter (1989), Tolos (1973), Atlas (1981), Sammartino (1979). Classic Ratings (1976). Future Classics: Pillman, Bossman.

☐ **May 1991:** Sgt. Slaughter—The Rise And Fall Of An American Hero. Four stories tracing his controversial career. Plus: Mixed Matches (1971), Hansen-Idol (1984), Thesz (1973), Igor-Hogan (1981), Rivera (1973). Classic Ratings (1986). Future Classics: Nasty Boys, Vicious.

☐ **July 1991:** The Pretty Killer: Don't Be Misled By Their Looks! Stanlee (1965), Lewin (1963), Von Erichs (1986), Steamboat-Backwinkel (1979), Martel (1984), Pillman (1990), Bravo (1975). Classic Ratings (1972). Future Classics: Ultimate Warrior, Scott Putski.

☐ **Sept. 1991:** Wrestling's Greats! (Before They Were Great). Andre (1971), DiBiase (1980), Hennig (1988), Jarrett (1988), Freebirds (1981), Hansen (1976), Flair (1976), Hogan (1981), Justice (1988), Windham (1981), Zbyszko (1974). Classic Ratings (1981). Future Classics: Flair, Mountie-Bossman.

☐ **Nov. 1991:** 20 Years (Or Better!)—And Still Going Strong! Lawler (1976), Terry Funk (1975), Ivan Koloff (1974), Slater (1975), Colon (1984), Mascaras (1977), Race (1975), Ron Garvin (1988), Snuka (1978), Valentine (1982), Murdoch (1981). Classic Ratings (1984). Future Classics: Gigante, Warlord.

☐ **Jan. 1992:** Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan: History's Role In The History-Making Bout. Seven stories that explain why this is "The Fight Of The Century." Plus: Luger-Race (1985), Battle Royals, Silento Rodriguez (1969). Classic Ratings (1987). Future Classics: Flair, Hogan.

In case of a sellout,
please indicate substitute choice: _____

IS ROTUNDO SANE?



Few wrestlers during the past decade have made less of their abilities than Mike Rotundo. The former amateur standout at Syracuse University got off to a promising start with his pro career before failure and frustration set in.

A two-time former WWF World tag team champion, former NWA World tag team champion, and two-time former NWA TV champ, Rotundo has, these past few years, done little to add to his resume. He has, however, added several aliases to his business card.

He went from Mike Rotundo to Capt. Mike to Michael Wall Street in WCW, where he fell under the spell of adviser Alexandra York. Now, in the WWF, with another chance to get his career back on track, Rotundo is parading around as tax accountant Irwin R. Schyster.

Talk about death and taxes: Rotundo's fascination with W-2s could mean the death of his career!

But does Rotundo care? Does he even know what he is doing? Rotundo's erratic actions over the

past several years suggest that he might have lost his marbles.

The editors of **The Wrestler** commissioned noted wrestling psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil to examine Rotundo and report his findings. Dr. Basil did not personally examine Rotundo; his observations were made from historical perspectives and Rotundo's public activities.

Nevertheless, Dr. Basil's words provide unique insight into a complex man, even if they cannot answer the question: Is Rotundo sane?

By Sidney M. Basil

THE SEARCH FOR a new identity is not unusual for pro wrestlers. This is the only sport that gives its participants the opportunity to create new identities and guises for themselves (though not the only sport where participants do so: Witness "Refrigerator" Perry and "The Boz" in football, Greg "The Shark" Norman in golf, or "Dr. J" in basketball). Sometimes, though, wrestling's encouragement to do so is an invitation to disaster.

I remember last year when Ron Simmons and Butch Reed wrestled under masks as the tag team Doom. They were a poor team,

mostly because each man had nothing to lose. Their careers couldn't suffer because nobody knew who they were.

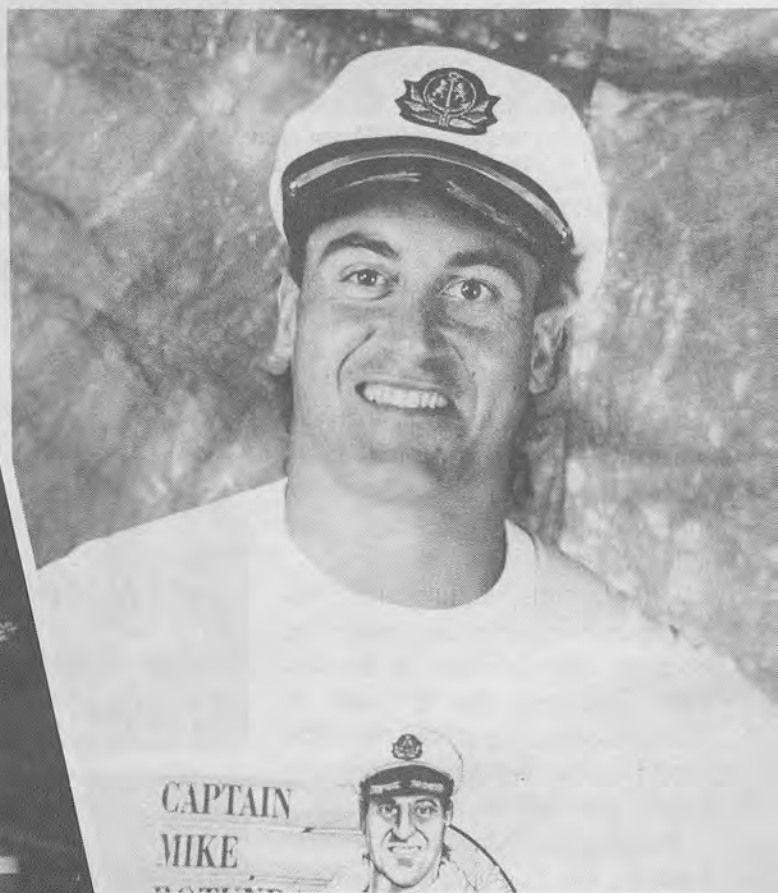
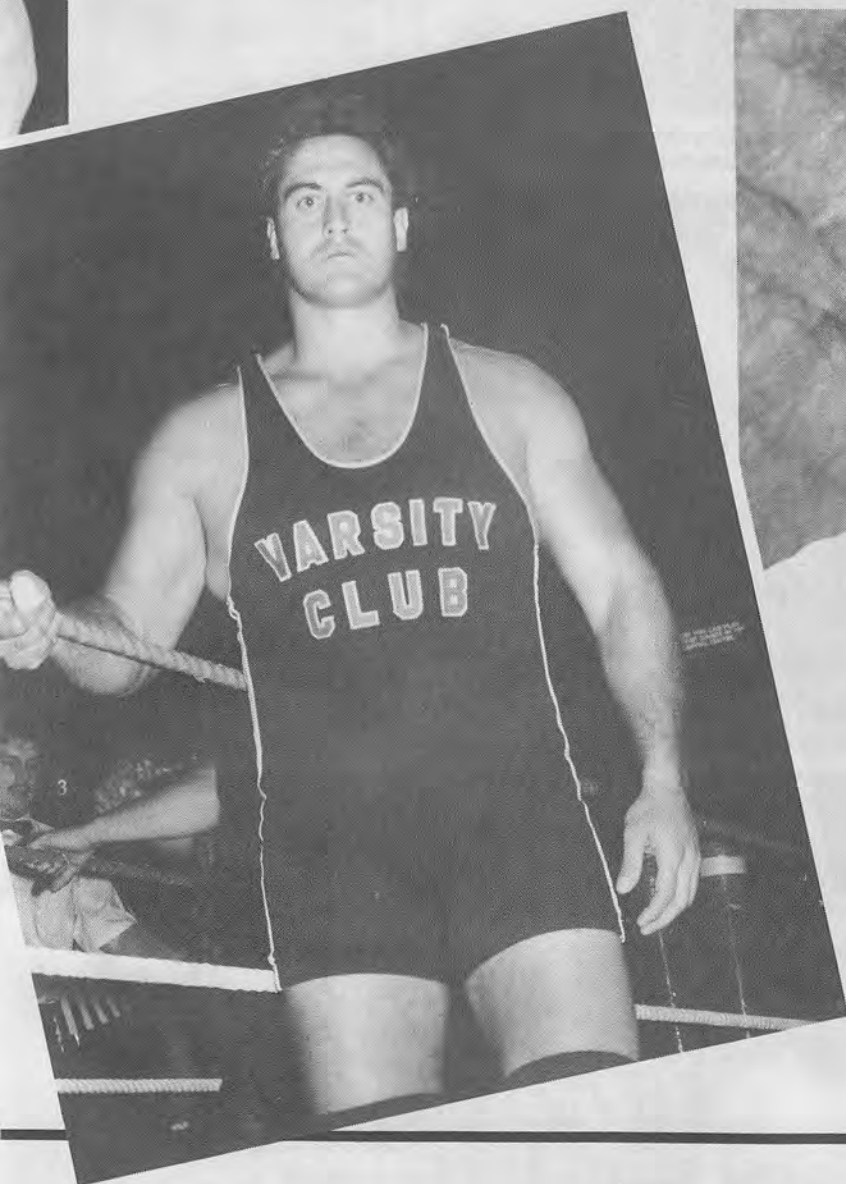
But when Simmons and Reed removed the masks, Doom prospered and became WCW World tag team champions. They had something to lose and something to gain. Their identities—and self-worth—were at stake.

The situation is a little different with Rotundo because he is not wearing a mask. He has created a new identity for himself—a tax accountant, strangely enough—but everyone knows that Irwin R.

Schyster is Mike Rotundo. This is no secret.

So that leads me to my next question: Does Rotundo know that he is Irwin R. Schyster? Is he trying to hide from himself?

I must address this possibility because of Rotundo's past failures. He was an outstanding wrestler during his college years at Syracuse, a fine university for wrestling. He was also a success during his first pro years, earning the Florida and Southern titles, but it quickly became apparent that Rotundo did not have the makings of a world champion, despite his ability.



In his previous incarnations, Rotundo was a member of The Varsity Club (left) and "Capt. Mike" (above). Psychologist Sidney M. Basil examined why Rotundo keeps changing personality.



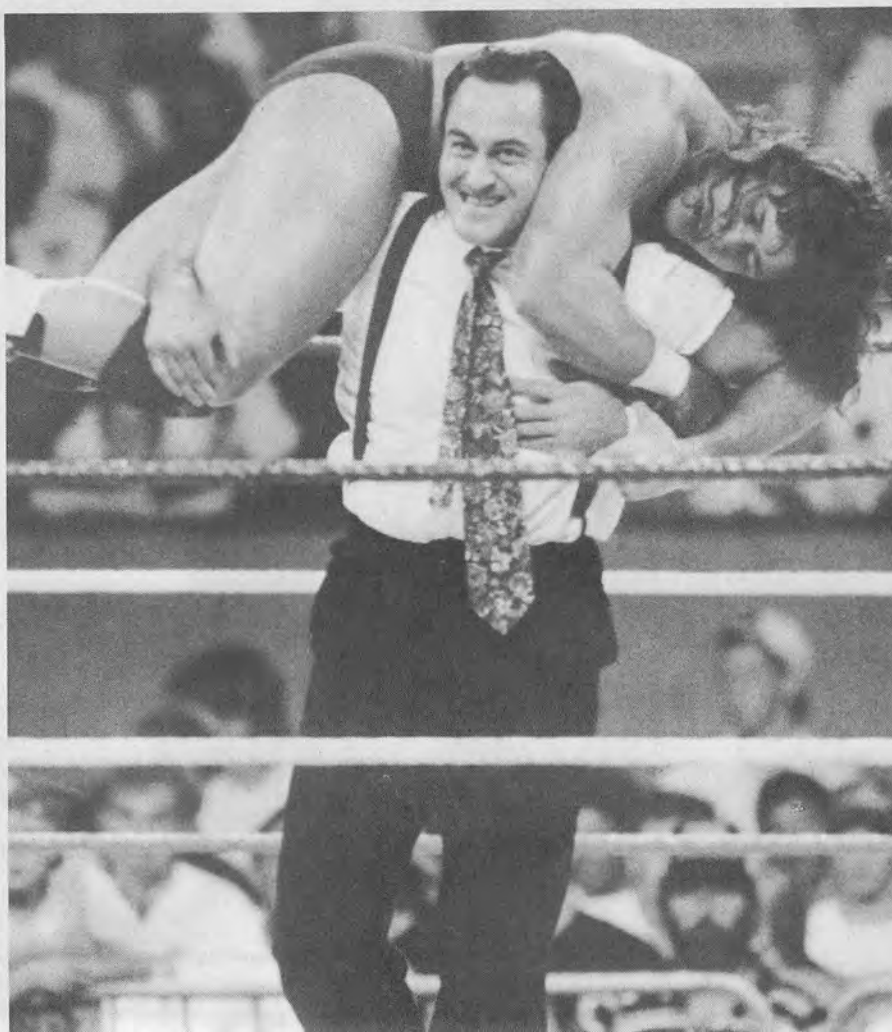
Wrestling in a tie and suspenders doesn't prevent Schyster from dominating Jim Powers (above and below). Basil believes that Rotundo, by becoming Schyster, is trying to flee from himself.

How he has reacted to that is most interesting. He went from fan favorite to rulebreaker. There's one change. He eventually changed his name to Michael Wall Street and took on Alexandra York as his adviser. That's two changes. One is the identity. The second is that another individual is now responsible for Rotundo's successes and failures.

Little by little, Rotundo isn't Rotundo anymore. His personality has become unrecognizable to the layman. And now he is Irwin R. Schyster—yes, another financial wizard—in a federation where he hadn't wrestled for several years.

Rotundo is trying to flee from himself. He is trying to create a new start on his career. He obviously does not want to be Mike Rotundo anymore.

As for the disguises, perhaps Rotundo wants to be perceived as a rich man, perhaps he wants to be perceived as a highly intelligent



At SummerSlam '91, IRS defeated Greg Valentine (right), but the victory has not moved him any further up the ladder of WWF title contention.

man. Perhaps this can be traced back to his college years, when Rotundo wasn't even near the top of his class. Rotundo might be trying to say, "Maybe I haven't reached my potential as a pro wrestler, but at least I'm a smart guy."

He is simulating success.

When the editors of *The Wrestler* commissioned me for this study, they presented me with this not-so-simple question: Is Rotundo sane? IRS? Very creative, but not quite logical.

Rotundo would not submit himself to personal examination. Even if he did, it would take months, if not years, before a dependable evaluation could be made.

Even so, I think it's necessary that we look in other directions with Rotundo. Is he disappointed with himself? Absolutely. Is he trying to hide? I would say so. Can he get his career back on track? Only if he once again takes responsibility for his actions.

Rotundo has found a hiding



As Michael Wall Street in WCW, Rotundo seemed to have found a persona he was comfortable with. Then he left the federation to become IRS in the WWF.

place in his suits and glasses. There is so much bitterness in his eyes. The glasses try to hide the eyes, but they cannot. Rotundo's true self always comes through.

As is the case with most people, there were several courses of action he could have chosen when presented with adversity. He didn't have to rely on others. He could have remained a fan favorite. He doesn't have to wrestle in a suit and suspenders.

It will be interesting to observe Rotundo over the coming years. As a highly competitive athlete, he has a strong will to win, a burning need to succeed. But to do so, he must reverse what his mind has already put into motion.

Perhaps a more apt question to pose might have been: Is Rotundo Succeeding? ☐

EXCLUSIVE!

***INSIDE
WRESTLING
REVEALS
STING'S***



Memo from a

Maniac!

Someone's out to destroy Sting—but that someone is being very secretive about what his or her true identity is. Recently, this evil person sent Sting a very threatening letter. In this *Inside Wrestling* exclusive, read the same ominous message that Sting received—and find out the U.S. champion's reaction!

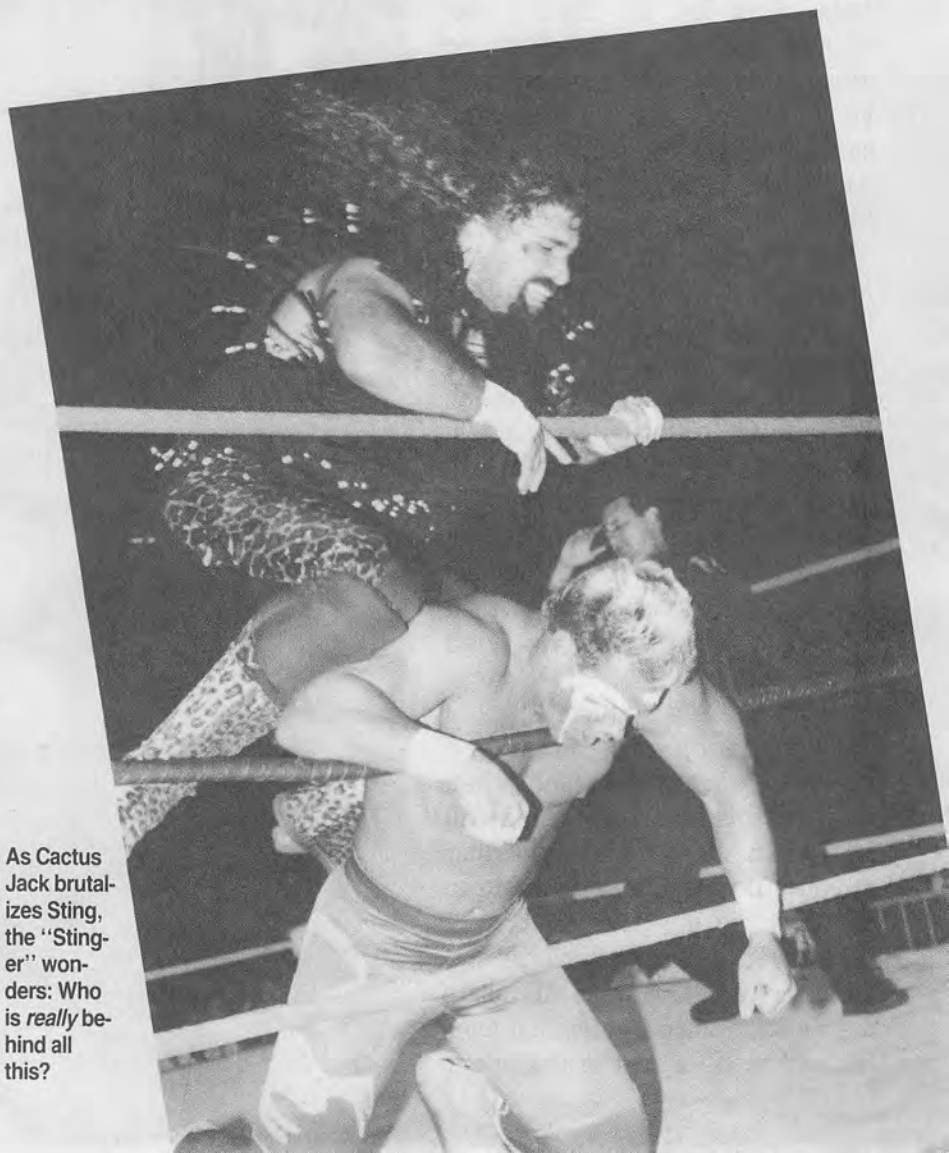
(Continued from front cover)

feel the consequences. Leave now or end up out of this sport for good!

You see, I've already got you in my power. You're already a shell of your former self. Ever since those "gift boxes" arrived at ring-side to deliver you the two biggest, baddest presents ever—Cactus Jack and Abdullah the Butcher—your mind is already so mixed up that you may never recover. And I sincerely hope you don't!

Even though I had this memorandum delivered by special delivery, you'll find no return address on the envelope. You'll have no indication of who this letter is

As Cactus Jack brutalizes Sting, the "Stinger" wonders: Who is *really* behind all this?





So far, Sting has been able to fight off Cactus' assaults (above), but for how long will he be able to withstand the vicious onslaughts (right)?

from. And by the time I get through with you, you'll have no idea of who *you* are or what you're about. I'm going to systematically drive you crazy—and then Abby and Jack will methodically break your body into pieces.

How do you like the first stage of my all-out assault? Already, Cactus Jack, the wildest and most devious force ever to drive up Route 85 from New Mexico, has humiliated you on national television at Clash of the Champions XVI. When he smashed you with his elbowdrop from the second rope to the arena floor, I was certain that your chest and ribs would cave in. Somehow, you managed to get up.

Next time, I've instructed Jack to climb to the *top* rope—and maybe even the *balcony*. Next time, when he drops his elbow on you, it will be like an atom bomb exploding in your ribcage. I hope I'm here to see how big the hole is.

But even if Cactus *can't* get the job done, there's always Abdullah, the most depraved individual ever allowed to be a part of this sport.

You must understand that Abby has no conception of winning or losing, of disqualifications or reprimands. The "Madman From The Sudan" simply *doesn't care*. All this 360-pound walking flab farm knows is how to carve roadmaps onto foreheads, and how to destroy every human being that comes into his path. You're only human, too, Sting. Do you really believe you can hold up under this kind of sadism?

And this isn't even the *beginning* of what I've got in store for you, my war-painted enemy! I've got friends in low places—people who make Abdullah and Jack look like a couple of Little Lord Fauntleroy—who are dying to





What Cactus has been doing to Sting is anything but child's play (left). Fans wonder when Sting's mysterious tormentor will reveal himself.

sink their talons into you. Men from countries with no rules or laws. Beasts so savage that most federations won't even let them compete. So if for some odd reason Cactus or Abby fail to destroy you, I've got men lining up to get their opportunities. Don't look over your shoulder, pal, because someone new may be gaining on you.

I know what you're thinking, Sting. *Who is doing this to me? Who hates me so much that he'd*

hire the most savage men anywhere to tear me apart? Well, I'm not even going to give you a clue as to who I am. I will let you know one thing, however: I know you very well—probably better than you know yourself.

I've spent countless hours in the same places with you, buddy boy. I've seen the innermost workings of your mind. I know what gets under your skin. And I know the things you're afraid of. The great Sting has proven he has as much bravery as any champion in wrestling, the fans say. Well, I'm going to prove to everyone that you can

STING'S TORMENTOR: SIX LIKELY SUSPECTS

Fans all over the country have been trying to figure out who the person—or persons—are that hired Abdullah the Butcher and Cactus Jack to cripple Sting. The editors of *Inside Wrestling* have compiled a list of the attempted to contact six most likely candidates.



Eddie Gilbert: "Hot Stuff" was Sting's tag team partner in the UWF in 1986, but the pair later had a violent falling-out. Gilbert admits he's always harbored resentment toward Sting, but now insists he's involved in other pursuits. "I'm too busy trying to capture the Global North American title from The Patriot," said Gilbert, who recently made a shocking reversion back to rulebreaking. "Leave me out of this garbage, will ya?"



Ric Flair: An outside candidate, but perhaps not as much as some people think. "Look at the insidious plot Flair was responsible for with that whole Black Scorpion ruse," noted NWA expert Donald Wayne. "The man is pure evil. Sure, he's in the WWF now, but who's to say he wouldn't come back to reclaim the WCW title? It'd be just like him to try to wipe out all the top contenders before he returned."



The Ultimate Warrior: Sting's former tag team partner in The Blade Runners has been AWOL since SummerSlam '91. Who's to say he's not above trying to make an immediate impact upon WCW by destroying Sting? "The Warrior is a crazy man," said former partner Don Muraco. "In fact, maybe after his adventures with Jake Roberts, he's gone even loonier. The whole thing makes sense to me."



Woman: Who says Sting's tormentor has to be a man? The beautiful brunette has held a grudge against WCW ever since she was suspended from the organization in 1990 for passing foreign objects to Flair during a steel cage match. "She's got the greatest mind in the sport," said current Woman protege D.C. Drake. "The current plot against Sting is brilliant, exactly the kind of thing Woman could dream up. If she's behind it, I think it's great."



Lex Luger: It is commonly believed that the Luger camp is not overly thrilled with the prospect of granting Sting a shot at the world title. Knowing they can't put off the U.S. champion off forever, maybe they're trying to put him out. "Absurd," said Luger's adviser, Harley Race. "Part of Lex's 'new attitude' is a sense of supreme self-confidence. What kind of message would I be sending the champ by trying to find a way out of wrestling a worthy contender?"



Nikita Koloff: Sting and the "Russian Nightmare" engaged in WCW's most violent feud of the year, with Koloff holding a slight edge in victories—and then, unexplainably, Koloff was gone. "I'm not behind this plot," said a surly Koloff from his North Carolina gym. "Leave me alone."



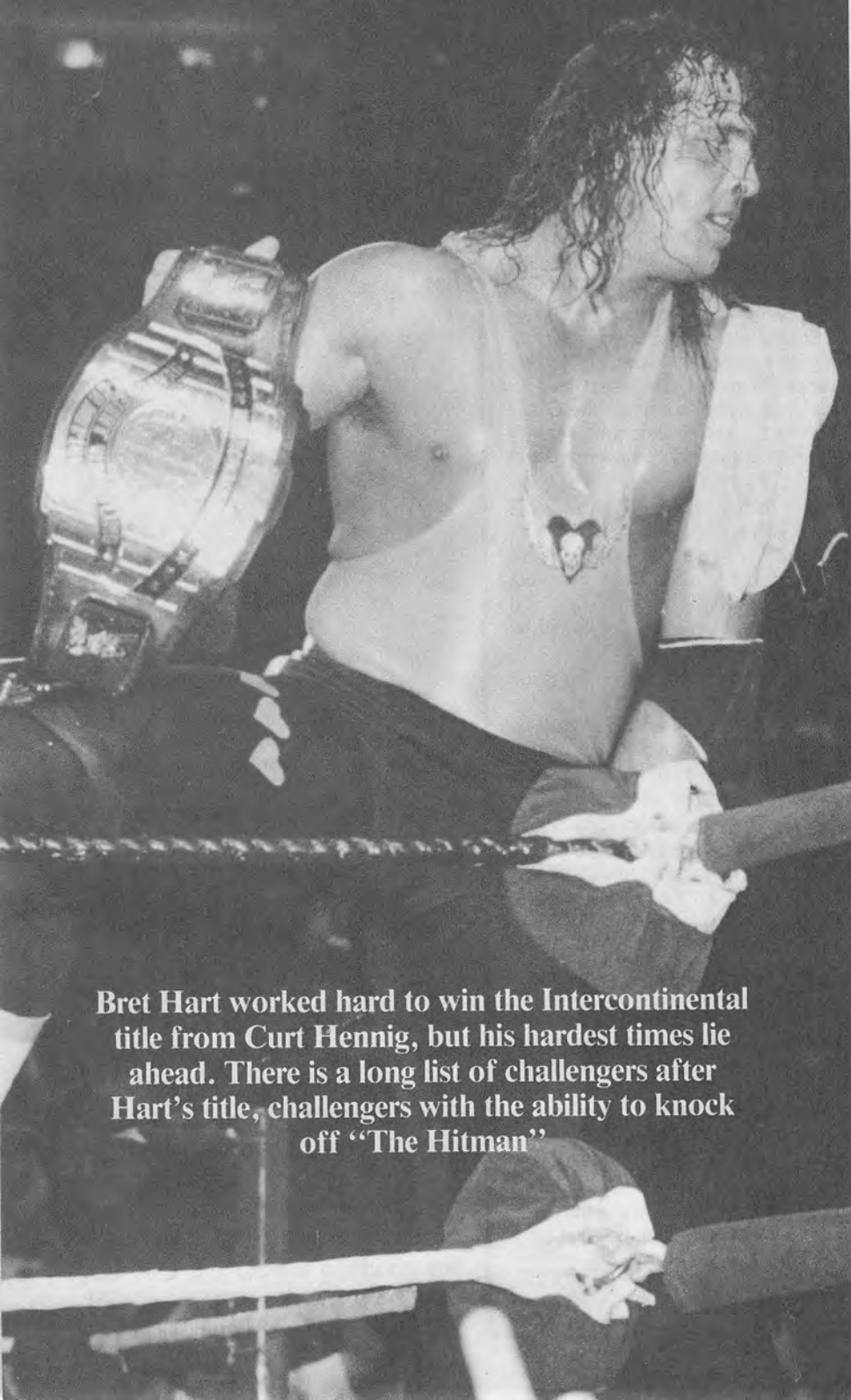
Cactus isn't the only one who wants a piece of the "Stinger" (above); Abdullah the Butcher has also been in on the action.

be changed into a weak, cringing coward. The Black Scorpion messed with your mind a year ago. Now, I'm going to wreck what's left of it!

And soon there will be nothing left. Bereft of spirit and body, Sting will be nothing more than a faint memory. You'll be in no shape to lift the WCW World title from Lex Luger. You'll be in no shape to lift a soup spoon to your parched lips!

You've had a nice five-year career, pal, but it's all over now. Say goodbye to your little "Stingers." Say goodbye to your U.S. title. Get out of WCW now, Sting, or your next match will be your last! □

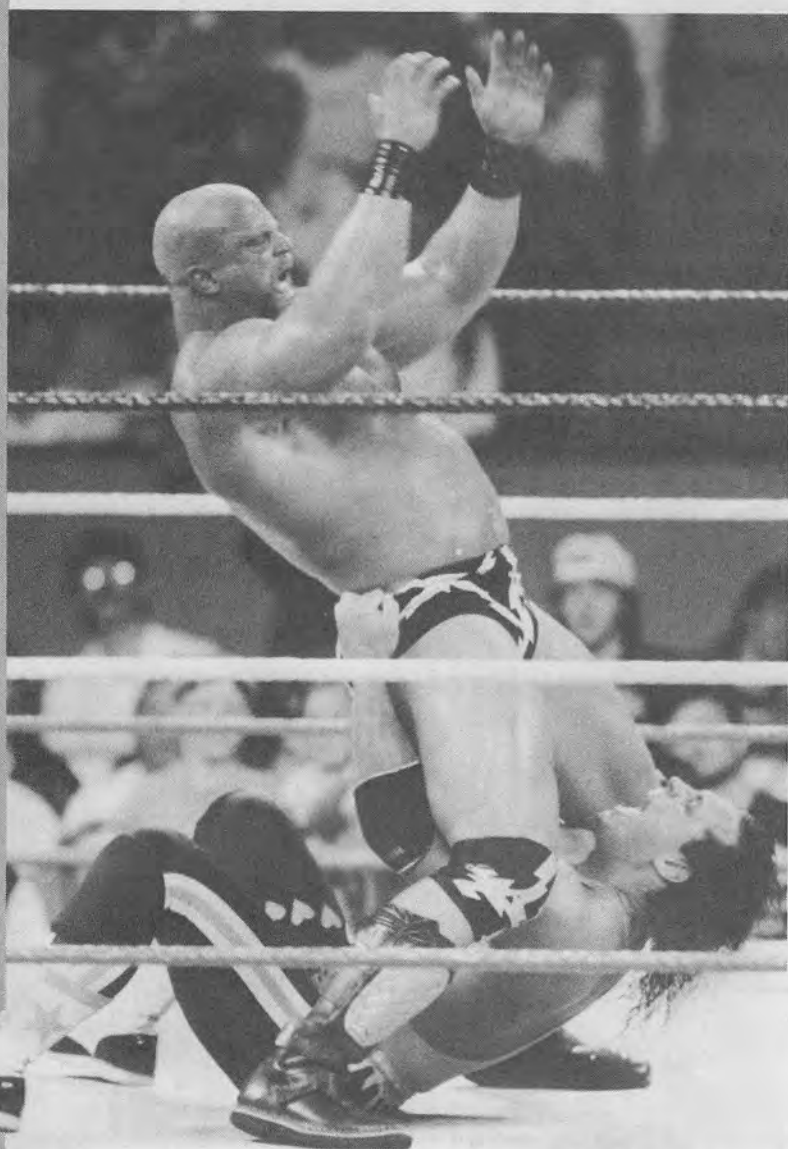
INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION



Bret Hart worked hard to win the Intercontinental title from Curt Hennig, but his hardest times lie ahead. There is a long list of challengers after Hart's title, challengers with the ability to knock off "The Hitman"

WRESTLING

The Men Out To Hit "The Hitman"



THIS WAS EASY. The WWF's "King of the Ring" tournament figured to pose one of the greatest tests yet to new Intercontinental champion Bret Hart, but as the night wore on, it was apparent that nobody was going to beat "The Hitman."

Hart was supposed to wrestle Kerry Von Erich in the first round, but Pete Doherty took Von Erich's place. Hart's second-round opponent was a bit tougher; still, the champ managed to get past Steve "Skinner" Keirn.

In the semifinals, Hart relaxed. He received a bye. And in the final, tax accountant Irwin R. Schyster attempted a leveraged buyout against Hart, but fell far short. An easy night. For once.

Because ever since Hart won the Intercontinental title from "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig in August, his life has been a nightmare. The I-C belt, as Hart knew, is one of the most sought-after trophies in wrestling. And now Hart is the target.

Hart is most fortunate on one count. Hennig, who would have gone after regaining the title with a vengeance, has been sidelined with a bad back. He might be out for six months to a year.

Behemoths like Warlord, who recently wrestled for Hulk Hogan's World belt, are in determined pursuit of Hart's I-C title.

But there are other challengers awaiting Hart. As he has discovered, becoming champion is easy compared to defending a title. There is the day-to-day task of *staying* motivated. Once a wrestler reaches the top, there is the tendency to relax. Those who relax don't hold their titles for long.

The editors of *Inside Wrestling* have compiled a list of the most likely contenders for the I-C title. These are the men who will test Hart's heart in the months ahead.

●
THE WARLORD: At 6'8", 360 pounds, Warlord possesses one of the most magnificent physiques in wrestling, a chiseled statue of muscle and sinew. Nonetheless, as Hart has proven, this is the kind of wrestler that poses a more difficult test for another muscleman, like WWF World champion Hulk Hogan.

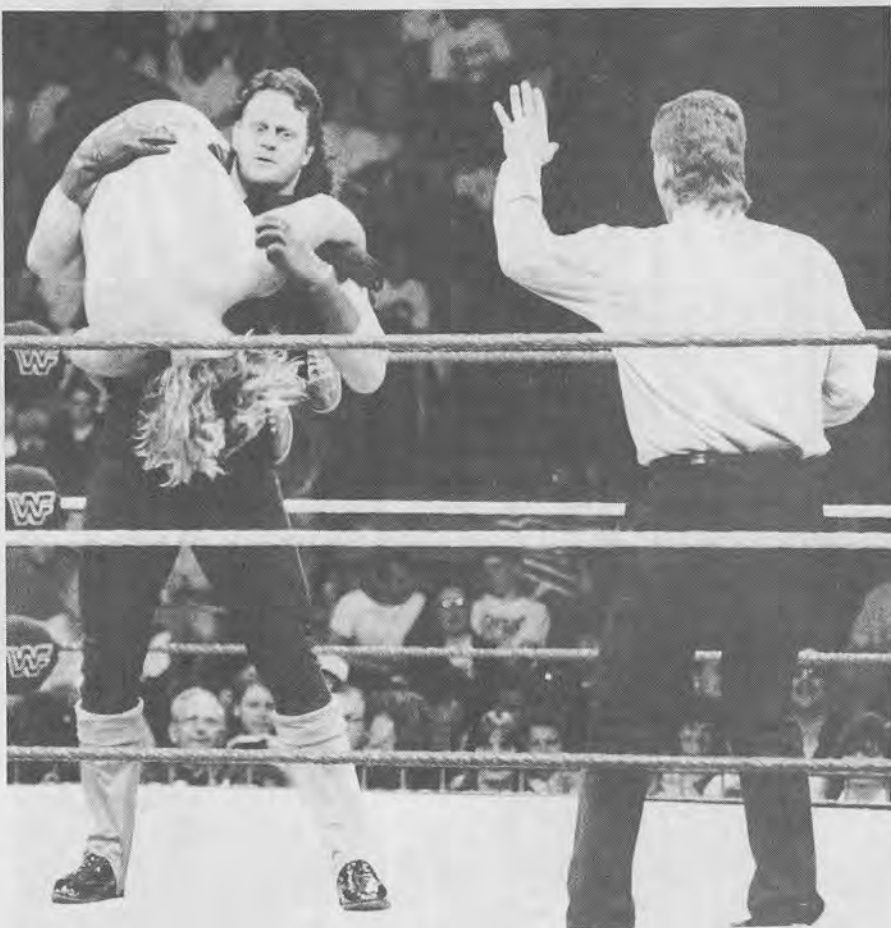
When Hart won the I-C title, Warlord was first in line for title shots. Hart has handled him rather easily. Hart is too smart and too skilled to lose to a primitive wrestler like Warlord.

But watch out! The Warlord goes after an opponent quickly. If Hart is careless, Warlord could swiftly pound him into the canvas. And nothing makes a man careless like a title and success.

THE UNDERTAKER: Crazy and dangerous, especially now that Jake Roberts is at his side. An out-cast who takes sanity to its very limit, The Undertaker is a threat to Hart simply because he knows no limits: As he has proved, Undertaker will do anything to destroy an opponent.

It would be best for Hart to avoid The Undertaker, but that is not his style. Hart does not ignore challenges. Still, there must be limits in society. Men like The Undertaker do not belong in a wrestling ring.

There is a great danger here if The Undertaker is granted match-



The Undertaker (above) is dangerous. Berzerker (below) is unorthodox. Both men could give Hart a great deal of trouble if he isn't careful.





If Sid Justice tires of waiting for a title shot against Hogan, he may decide to go after Hart's belt, even if they are both fan favorites.

es against Hart. There is no strategy to offset this creature. There is only prayer and hope.

BERZERKER: Rapidly working his way up the WWF ladder, but this is not the kind of man who wins major titles. Formerly known as The Barbarian and "Yukon" John Nord, Berzerker is strong and vicious but he isn't very smart. He usually beats himself.

A muscleman such as Warlord can pose a problem for Hart, though, simply because he is so huge. Berzerker thirsts for Hart's title, but he isn't likely to get it.

IRWIN R. SCHYSTER: Hart dis-

posed of this non-challenge at the "King of the Ring" tournament. He might have to do it again.

Once known simply as Mike Rotundo, Schyster has obviously lost his W-2. Rotundo, a former amateur standout at Syracuse University, is actually one of the most gifted natural wrestlers in the sport.

Like Hart, his scientific skills are extensive. Unlike Hart, he has not learned how to use them. His frustration with underachievement constantly leads him down the wrong path. He now relies more on rulebreaking and gimmickry than his God-given ability.

If Rotundo ever concentrated on improving his abilities, he could become one of the great stars in wrestling. He would then be a threat to Hart.

That has not happened, and it seems Hart has nothing to worry about.

SID JUSTICE: A fan favorite, but who knows what the next year will bring? Justice was once a rule-breaker. Hart was once a rule-breaker. Now they are both fan favorites. Still, their paths might finally cross.

If so, Hart is in trouble. Justice is one of the great up-and-coming stars in the sport. He is ready to take Hogan's spot at the top of the WWF. Does he want to make a pit stop at the I-C level? Probably not.

But if Justice gets bored with waiting for Hogan, he might take a shot at Hart. It would be another classic science vs. power match, the sharp veteran vs. the young gun, one of the greatest tests of Hart's career.

KERRY VON ERICH: The former I-C champ would like nothing more than to recover his past glory. Unfortunately, Kerry has fallen upon hard times. The death of his youngest brother, Chris, must have affected him greatly.

Kerry has recovered from adversity before. He has the skills and strength to test Hart. Of course, before these two meet, one of them will probably have to change his ways.

●

There are others. Rick Steamboat, another fan favorite, has rapidly moved back up the WWF ladder. He is a former I-C champ with a point to prove.

And how about Jim Neidhart? Hart's former partner in The Hart Foundation, overshadowed by Hart, has been labeled a tag team wrestler. Perhaps these two are destined to meet again—this time, on opposite sides of the ring. □

HOTSEAT

DUSTY RHODES

"I'M IN SHAPE, RESTED, AND READY TO RUMBLE!"

WHEN "AMERICAN DREAM" Dusty Rhodes announced his retirement last winter, few observers expected him to stay on the sidelines for long. The former three-time NWA World champion had a brilliant 22-year career and has always been regarded as one of those men who will never stop yearning for the competitive fires of the ring.

At first, it appeared as if Rhodes was determined to keep his word. After a stint as a WCW broadcaster, the "Dream" became a goodwill ambassador for the federation. By all accounts, he seemed content to let his son, Dustin, carry on the Rhodes tradition of ring excellence.

Then, at Clash of the Champions XVI on September 5, Rhodes returned to the spotlight, accompanying Ron Simmons as Simmons signed for his Halloween Havoc WCW World title match against champion Lex Luger. At the time, Dusty said he was only with Simmons as a "friend."

However, Rhodes was soon directly involved in the Luger-Simmons feud. After Luger attacked Dustin, Rhodes signed on as special referee for a bout pitting Simmons and Barry Windham against Luger and his bodyguard, Mr.

Hughes. Dusty insisted his only concern was to make sure that Simmons and Windham received a fair shake.

To get a handle on Rhodes' future plans, *Inside Wrestling* sent Associate Editor Andy Rodriguez to Atlanta to speak with the "American Dream."

“

**I didn't win three World titles
lookin' like a beauty queen,
know what I'm sayin'?**

”

Q: Dusty, the paramount question on every fan's mind is: Are you going to wrestle again?

A: Far be it from the "American Dream," daddy, to preclude any possibility. There's just so many bad things going down in WCW that the "Dream" don't know which way to turn. I got to help out my friend, Ron Simmons, you understand. I got to make sure WCW treat him right.

Q: So you are getting back in the ring?

A: That's not what I said, my man. I said I was going to watch Ron's back, that's all. You got people like Lex Luger, Harley Race, and Mr. Hughes runnin' around WCW like they own it, and you got to do something. Bein' a special referee is my way of helpin' out. It ain't like gettin' in the ring and wrestlin'.

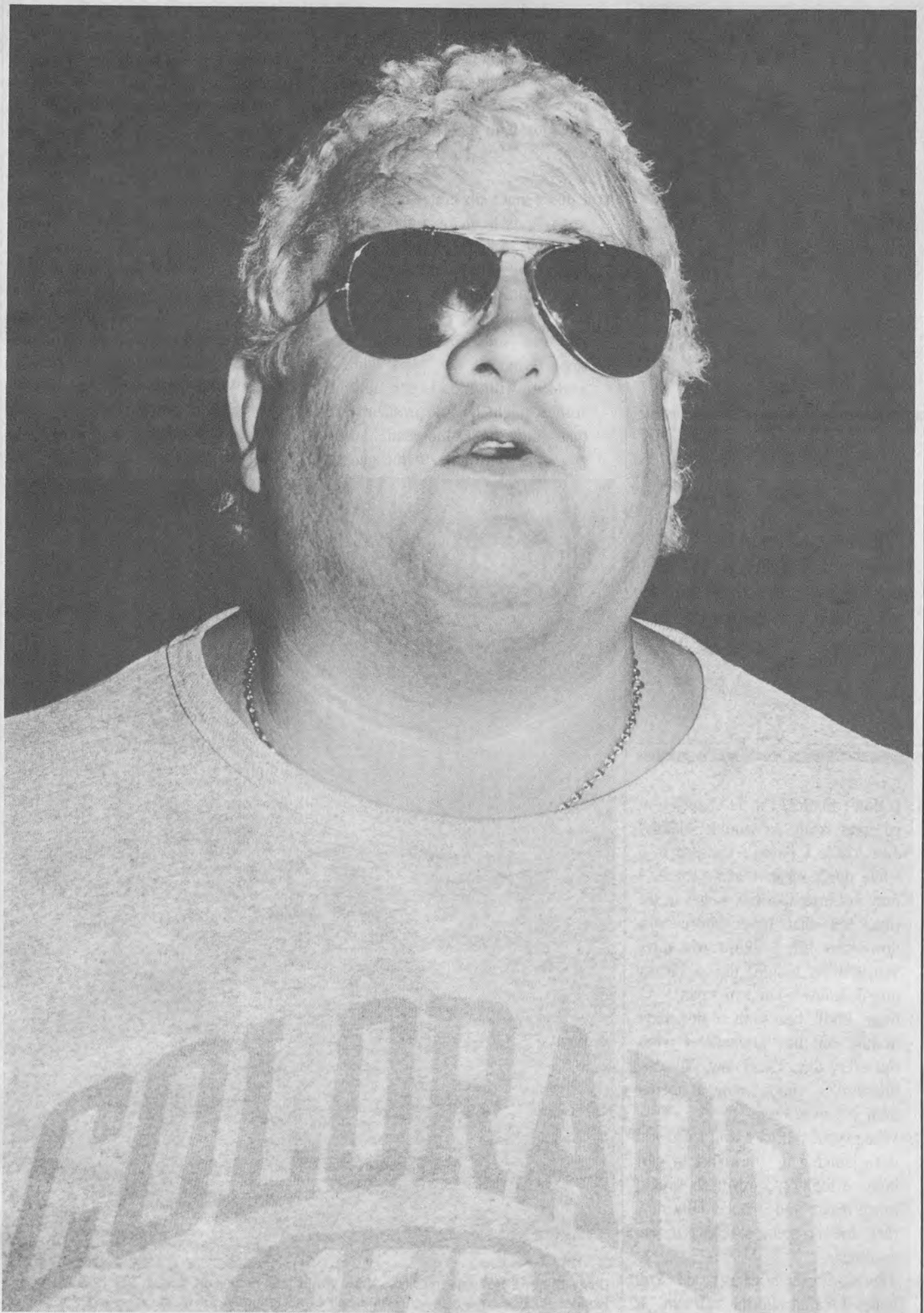
Q: Why don't you think Simmons and Barry Windham can handle themselves?

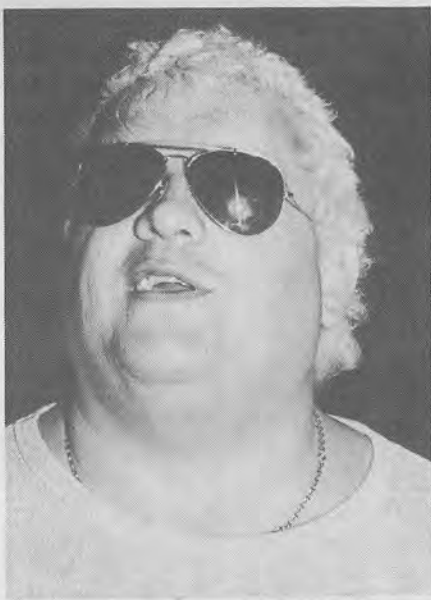
A: Son, it ain't a question of them helpin' themselves, I'm talkin' about seeing justice served. Like the song says, you got to serve somebody. I know who I got to serve. The "American Dream" has always been on the side of right. Ron Simmons is on the side of right. Luger was, but he went down the wrong path. It's enough to make a man sad, but Luger don't deserve no pity. He'll get his in the ring.

Q: Let me pose a hypothetical question: What if Simmons asked you to be his tag team partner?

A: I'd give it strong consideration.

Q: But you haven't competed in al-





“

There's just so many bad things going down in WCW that the 'Dream' don't know which way to turn.

”

most a year.

A: It don't matter. I'm in shape, rested, and ready to rumble, daddy! Just 'cause I haven't wrestled in a while don't mean I can't cut it. I may not look like Lex Luger in the ring, but that never slowed me down one bit. I didn't win three World titles lookin' like a beauty queen, know what I'm sayin'? All these body beautifuls don't have nothin' on the "Dream." I work out every day. Every day. My cardiovascular conditioning is better than it's ever been.

Q: When you retired, you said you were hanging up the tights in part because today's competitors are so much bigger and stronger. But now that doesn't seem to concern you as much.

A: That's not exactly what I said. You make it sound like the "Dream" is

afraid. Son, that was never the case and never will be. I've never been the biggest and strongest, but that never had nuthin' to do with my success. What I got bigger than anybody is in here (*taps his chest*).

Q: Can you remain impartial as a referee?

A: I don't make no bones that I favor my friends in there, but when the bell rings, I'll try to call it straight down the middle, no favorites at all. If Ron and Barry cheat, I'll set 'em straight, just as sure as I'd set my own son straight if he ever stepped out of line. That ain't a problem with me. Luger and his cronies might have a problem with that, but that's too bad. I can guarantee one thing to the people:

When the "American Dream" makes a decision, one way or the other, it's the right one, and it's final. Nobody'll have to go around guessin' how things turned out. If Luger don't like it, that's his problem.

Q: Speaking of Luger, you don't agree with him on much, but you stick up for him as the WCW World champion.

A: That's right, 'cause as far as I'm concerned, Lex is the only true World champion in this sport. There's been some people runnin' around lately claiming how *they're* the World champion, but they're just blowin' smoke. The only real World champion is here in WCW, and that's Lex Luger. And the



Dusty Rhodes celebrates his first NWA World title victory on August 21, 1979 in Tampa, Florida. Rhodes says a fourth World belt is not entirely out of the question.



When Ron Simmons signed to wrestle Lex Luger for the World title, Rhodes was there as a "friend," in his words. The "Dream" says he only wants Simmons to get a fair shake.

only way to become World champion is to beat *him*, nobody else.

Q: Who's your pick for next WCW World champion?

A: Well, naturally, at this point I have to go with my man Simmons. He's got Lex all dazed and confused. I've known Ron since he broke into this sport back in '86, and I always knew he had the tools to win the big belt. Lex made the biggest mistake of his life when he insulted Simmons in public. You fire up Ron like that and you're in big, big trouble. That's where Luger is. I don't think will be seein' him as champion much longer.

Q: What if Simmons can't get the job done?

A: He will. But if he don't, I'm lookin' at guys like Windham or Sting to come through. Sting's got that U.S. title, which I held so proudly for so long. And what Sting's has goin' for him is that he was betrayed by Luger. They were pretty tight at one time, but Lex let us all down. I even think that young fellow who's got the TV title, Steve Austin, could give Luger a few sleepless nights. Lex might

have Harley Race and Mr. Hughes, but he ain't the wrestling superstar he thinks he is. Not by a long shot, daddy.

Q: Hmm, sounds to me like *you'd* like a shot at him.

A: Well, let me put it this way. It's like I heard Larry Holmes say the other night. He said he wasn't ready for Mike Tyson—yet. But given some more time, he knew he'd be able to take him. That's how I feel about Luger. I probably couldn't beat him today or tomorrow or even in a month, but once I got reacquainted to that ring . . . hey, it's a little too early to even be thinkin' like this.

Q: Would you like to get into the ring along with your son?

A: Dustin's had some fine tag partners in WCW, and right now he holds the WCW six-man title with Big Josh and Tommy Zenk. So I don't think he'd be wanting his old man to hang around too often. But then again, we are close and we always will be. He knows if he ever needs my help, I'll be there for him, no questions asked. I'm glad he's not askin' me to bail his butt out, though, 'cause that would be a sign



“

[Luger] might have Harley Race and Mr. Hughes, but he ain't the wrestling superstar he thinks he is.

”

of weakness. I didn't bring up Dustin to be weak, you understand. I brought him up to make his own decisions, and whatever he does is fine by me.

Q: Are you satisfied with your career, or do you feel there's more to be done?

A: The "American Dream" will never rest on his laurels. I could sit home and be content with everything that's gone down over the years, but I keep gettin' the feeling there's something more. If my wrestling days are over, I'll accept that, but that don't mean it's over for me in the sport, as I'm provin' every day. I'll be here for the people for as long as they want me, and I'm hopin' they want me for a long, long time. The "Dream" will never die, baby, the "Dream" will never die!



THE FREEBIRDS TURN GOOD...



Photos by Roy London

Freebirds Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes have turned good, and are hearing more encouraging cheers from the fans.

By Eddie Ellner

MICHAEL HAYES UNLEASHED a throaty laugh—a rock 'n' roll laugh, a good ol' boy laugh—and paused to sip from his milkshake. Yes, his *milkshake*.

"This must be what you guys call a slow news month," Hayes cackled, his blond mustache turned chocolatey brown. "You figured you'd give

ol' Michael Hayes a call and see what's up with The Freebirds, see if they can generate any headlines. Huh? Am I right?"

We hope not, though readers may actually feel as if they've read this story before—or witnessed the following experiment: Can The Freebirds become good?

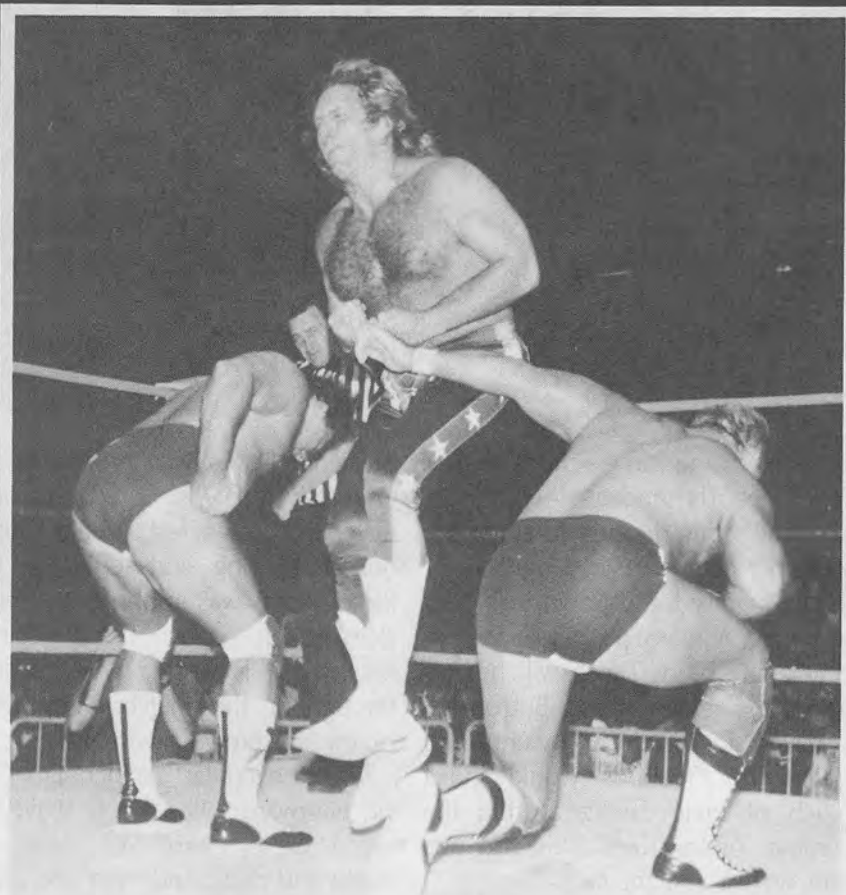
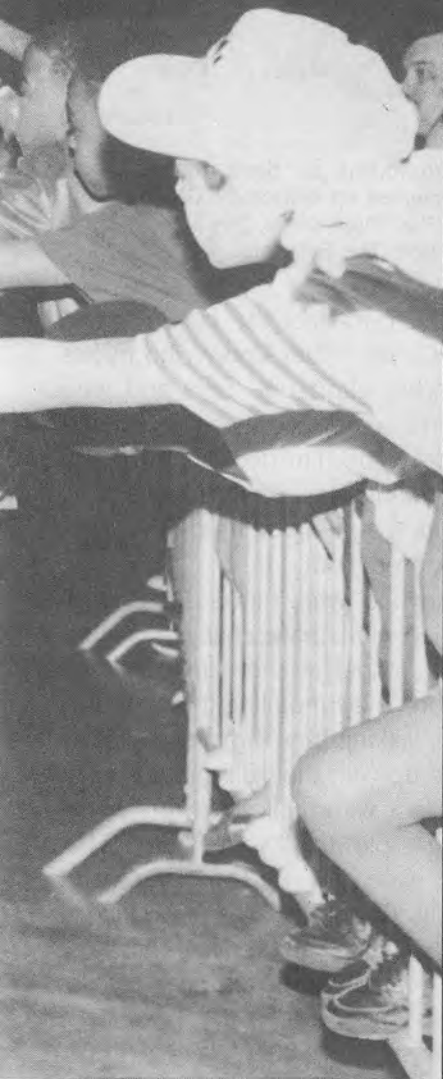
Hypothesis: Hayes and Jim Garvin, having looked inward at their lives and careers, reached a new level of maturity and decided to turn good.

"After all these years," Hayes said, "I've grown to like the sound of a cheering crowd. Feels damn good, man."

Materials: The Freebird nucleus of

Seeing their formerly high-soaring careers hit a holding pattern, Freebirds Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes have shocked WCW fans by deciding to turn good. However, many fans don't realize that Freebirds don't feather their nests unless it's to their advantage. Can these veteran brawlers be trusted?

FOR THE GOOD OF THE FREEBIRDS



Hayes has tremendous support as he and Garvin battle Enforcers Larry Zbyszko and Arn Anderson for the WCW World tag team title.

Hayes and Garvin—*alone*—without the distraction or support of Dallas Page, Big Daddy Dink, Badstreet, the Diamond Dolls, or any other assorted hangers-on.

"We dropped the entourage for a specific reason," insisted Garvin. "We're getting back to the basic business of grappling. We grew tired

of the three-ring circus. We want people to know we're two serious boys dedicated to the art of professional butt-whipping."

For reasons of scientific inquiry, this statement was issued with a completely straight face.

Procedure: Pit The Freebirds against The Enforcers in a feud for the WCW World tag team championship. These two teams are considered by many critics to be mirror images of each other.

"The Enforcers," repeats Hayes. "The Enforcers? To hell with the nickname. That's Larry Zbyszko and Arn Anderson, plain and simple. We know them and they know us. We



Zbyszko roughs up Hayes (above), then gets roughed up himself by Garvin's DDT (left). The 'Birds swear they'll never back down from The Enforcers.



all went to the same school, except The Freebirds graduated with honors, while they decided to study the same old courses. When the four of us get involved and down to it, you won't be able to pry us apart—except at the end. Those will be *our* hands the referee raises. Bet on it."

Hayes, not incidentally, went on to claim The Freebirds would inflict much of their damage within the confines of the rules. This also was said with a straight face.

Experiment: The teams wrestled to a wild double-disqualification, marred by almost constant rule-

breaking. Hayes was precise in his prematch analysis: Much of the match was a slugfest, fought mostly out of the ring, and separating the flailing limbs was impossible without slow-motion replay. The Freebirds, for what it is worth, were cheered throughout the match. They were clearly the crowd favorite.

"They loved us," smiled Jim Garvin afterward. "You know why? Because we're clean. We stand for might and right. Anderson and Zbyszko are over-the-hill bums who'll do anything to gain an advantage. Their history speaks for itself.

"You can't fool the fans," continued Garvin. "They know who makes a sincere effort out there and who doesn't. We'll get those belts, and when we do, I'm dedicating the victory to the fans. They deserve it."

And, yes, Garvin used a straight face throughout.

"Anyone who thinks these bird-brained mutts have changed one bit are as stupid as they are," spit Anderson. They're pulling the same garbage, talking the same trash. They make up with their big mouths what they lack with their small fists. What did people think out there? That they were getting Lou Thesz and Buddy Rogers? Hayes and Garvin know how to punch. That's all. They never could wrestle and they certainly can't now, no matter how clean and respectable they claim to be.

"Larry and I will smash these two imposters quick and get on to more substantial challenges," Anderson said arrogantly. "These two 'Birds are boring."

Observation: Hayes, his knee wrapped in ice, sipped from a beer mug full of Jack Daniel's—yes, Jack Daniel's—and spoke.

"Face it," he said. "There ain't a hell of a lot of difference between



Garvin whips Anderson (left), fights a Boston crab (above), and takes a lusty swing at Zbyszko (below). To those who say The Freebirds haven't changed, Garvin says "hog-wash"—or words to that effect.



The Enforcers and The Freebirds. Given a different set of circumstances, the fans could have just as easily been cheering for them—although it's hard to imagine anyone but his mother cheering for that creep Larry Zbyszko. As long as we keep wrestling against him, we're certain to keep hearing the crowd behind us.

"When you get down to it, it just gives you a good feeling to be doing something right for a change," Hayes said, pounding his fist on the bench for emphasis.

Conclusion: The image of The Freebirds and The Von Erchs arm-in-arm is a visual memory many fans and reporters cannot erase. It wasn't long after the photo was taken that The Freebirds sneak-attacked Kerry Von Erch and nearly hospitalized him.

So it goes.

The career pattern of The Fabulous Freebirds is to kick butt and party hard—not necessarily in that order. Whenever a claim of righ-

teousness has been issued from the team, it is almost always immediately undermined by an act of evil. Whether it's sour mash whiskey or Bosco on the breath, a bird of a

different beverage smells just as suspicious.

Our conclusion: Trust them as far as you can throw them—with one hand. □

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

FOR THE MOST part, the career of Dutch Mantel has been an outstanding one. The mustachioed Texas brawler has become almost legendary in the USWA for his classic battles against Jerry Lawler, Bill Dundee, and other Memphis stars during the past 18 years.

It was just months ago that many people were willing to write Mantel off. After a lengthy stretch of being mired in preliminary matches in WCW, Mantel came up with a brainstorm: He wanted to form the finest six-man team in the federation.

To do this, Mantel contacted Black Bart, a former World Class champion and, like Mantel, a vastly underrated grappler. Finding the third man of the team was harder than Mantel had anticipated. Most other wrestlers were busy with other pursuits; others thought the six-man title was not a worthy enough championship to strive for. Finally, Mantel persuaded Dead-eye Dick, a wrestler previously known as Moondog Rex, to complete the team.

Unfortunately, the new trio, dubbed The Desperados, turned out to be as desperate as any team in history. Dick tripped over the ring ropes, and Mantel and Bart often ran into each other by accident—and this was during practice sessions. Mantel remembered that longtime friend Stan Hansen had once

ONE ON ONE



"If you think I ever wanted to have anything to do with that Desperado nonsense, you're barking up the wrong tree."

—Stan Hansen

offered his assistance in helping get the team started. With Hansen's help, Mantel reasoned, the team couldn't help but become a success. There was just one problem: Where was Hansen?

The Desperados searched for Hansen, but never found him. Eventually, they gave up and left WCW entirely. But Mantel's frantic search for Hansen has continued without much success—until now. We put these two Texans on the telephone for a very strange discussion . . . "One on One."

DUTCH MANTEL:

Finally! Hey, I've got the legendary Stan Hansen, the former AWA and U.S. champion, on the phone! Stan, you once promised you were going to help make The Desperados the greatest force

in wrestlin' history. It's too late for that, but I'm glad I've got this chance to catch up to you, Stan!

STAN HANSEN:

Who is this?

DM: Hey, it's me, Stan! Your ol' buddy Dutch Mantel!

SH: Who? Have you got the right number? Mantel who?

DM: Aw, come on, Hansen! You remember that conversation we had about a year ago? When we sat down at the Chaw 'n' Chew in Abilene and discussed how we were gonna put together the greatest fighting force in wrestling history?

SH: Are you sure you got the right guy? Don't you want to talk to Swede Hanson?

N ONE



"I've spent months—and thousands of dollars—trying to get in touch with you. I've sent cables and telegrams all over the world."
—Dutch Mantel

DM: What are you talking about?

SH: Well, you're comin' on like you're some kind of long-lost pal of mine or something, but I don't think I've spoken to you in years. Even *then*, I didn't know you all that good. Sure, I've always known about you as a wrestler. Good fighter, nice moves, a little loony at times, but a winner. But if you think I ever wanted to have anything to do with that Desperado nonsense, man, you're barkin' up the wrong tree.

DM: How can you say that? You were the mastermind behind the whole thing! And to think, I've spent months—and literally thousands of dollars—trying to get in touch with you. I've sent cables and telegrams all over the world, and

I've made more long-distance phone calls than Ma Bell ever did. And after all this, you're playing dumb with me.

SH: I'm not playin' anything, and you better watch your mouth. Mantel, get this through your head: I don't care about you *or* your Desperados. Why don't you go set fire to Jerry Lawler or somethin' and stop hounding me?

DM: I ain't gonna get off your case for a second, Hansen. I can't believe you left me hangin' the way you did. For months, I tried to make a wrestler out of Deadeye Dick, but he couldn't even find his way to the ring. And Black Bart was good, but he wouldn't listen to a damn thing I said. You could've put the three of us in the

ring with The Ding Dongs and Bubba Fangman and the three of 'em would've whupped us with ease. But I kept it all goin' because I knew that the great Stan Hansen would finally come around to help us out—maybe even manage us.

SH: Mantel, I think you've been dippin' in the moonshine, boy. Are you crazy? I'm not about to drop my career in Japan just to manage three of the most hapless guys in this sport! And I never, *ever* said that I would!

DM: But at the Chaw 'n' Chew . . .

SH: I've never *been* to the Chaw 'n' Chew!

DM: But when you told me you'd . . .

SH: I never said *nothin'* to *nobody*! Listen, Mantel, you're a pretty good wrestler. You've had a good career. But I can't take it anymore. Every time I turn around, there's messages on my answering machine. I keep hearing about how you show up on TV with your Stan Hansen Hotline, waiting for me to call you. Why would I *want* to call you? Why can't you leave me be? Do I have to catch a plane to Memphis to rip you into pieces?

DM: Oh, that's fine talk coming from such a close friend.

SH: *Close* friend? I don't even know how to spell your name!

DM: Why, you long-legged, beer-bellied polecat! You've let me down for the last time. I hope you *do* get on the plane and get here to Tennessee. You're going to pay for letting me down the way you did. And I'm going to become a champion again on my own terms. I don't need your help or anyone else's.

SH: That's great. But can you answer me one question?

DM: What's that?

SH: Is this *Dutch* Mantel or *Johnny* Mantell?

DM: I give up!

WCW SUPERBRAWL



St. Petersburg, Florida, is the setting for WCW's first annual SUPERBRAWL! Two international superpowers claim the World heavyweight title. Who will emerge victorious as undisputed champion when Ric Flair takes on Japan's Tatsumi Fujinami? Plus, Sting and Lex Luger challenge Rick and Scott Steiner for the World tag team title. Former teammates settle the score when Ron Simmons and Butch Reed battle in Thunder Dome! And witness the Battle of Giants as Sid Vicious and El Gigante go head to head in a stretcher match! It's wrestling's newest tradition, SUPERBRAWL!

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

kings, I must rank Baron Mikel Scicluna, who was interviewed in the article, as number-one. In the '70s, I saw him use steel rods, church-key can openers, and even pencils on his foes. Next was The Sheik, a walking knife store, followed by Abdullah the Butcher, The Great Mephisto, and now D.C. Drake, the sickest of today's sadists.

Keep on carving, guys!

TIM VERDON
Philadelphia

Somewhere here in Canada, the rest of the great Rougeau wrestling family are probably hiding their heads in shame.

PIERRE FREMEN
Montreal

PAUL'S PINUP

I liked the "Capsule Profile" on Paul Orndorff in the November 1991 issue. "Mr. Wonderful" will go down in the annals of pro wrestling as one of the best ever.

Two thumbs up to you, Paul.

MARC PECORARO
Fairlawn, NJ

MOUNTING PRESSURE

It's good to see a complete joke such as The Mountie getting his comeuppance from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as you detailed in the November 1991 issue ("The Mounties Always Get Their Man—And This Time, It's The Mountie!"). This clown Jacques Rougeau could *never* be a real police officer in *any* country.

In fact, I refuse to call Rougeau anything but Rougeau. The man can't even wrestle anymore. All he can do is jab people with that shock stick of his.

FAREWELL, FLAIR

Everyone knows where seven-time former NWA/WCW World champion Ric Flair has ended up, as you predicted correctly in the November 1991 issue ("The End Of An Era—Or A New Beginning? Where Does Ric Flair Go From Here?"). Like everyone else, I'm looking forward to the Flair-Piper and Flair-Hogan matches, but my an-

(Continued on page 54)

Send To:

T.V. Sports Video Inc.
Box 1672
Greenwich, CT 06836

Visa Or MasterCard
Call Toll Free:
1-800-729-0360

SUPERBRAWL

ONLY
\$39.95
plus \$3 postage
and handling
VHS FORMAT
ONLY

Please send me _____ copies of
SUPERBRAWL '91

"Return From The Rising Sun"

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to T.V. Sports Video)

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Expiration Date: ____/____/____
MO/YR

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Video \$ _____

Plus \$3 Postage & Handling For Each Tape \$ _____

Total \$ _____

(Allow up to four weeks for delivery. Offer good in U.S. only. Foreign orders must include \$6 for each tape ordered to cover air mail postage and handling. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY. No PAL, only United States NTSC system compatible. Videocassettes are guaranteed against defects only. Defective tapes will be replaced with a duplicate when returned within 10 days of receipt. Please include written information regarding the defect and send to address above. No other returns allowed.)



To reader Pierre Fremien, The Mountie will always be plain old Jacques Rougeau, whose exploits must be an embarrassment to his family.

THIS MONTH IN...

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



Join us as we attempt to uncover wrestling's unsolved mystery: What has become of **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**?



Find out why they're saying that **RIC FLAIR** will make **HULK HOGAN** look like an amateur!

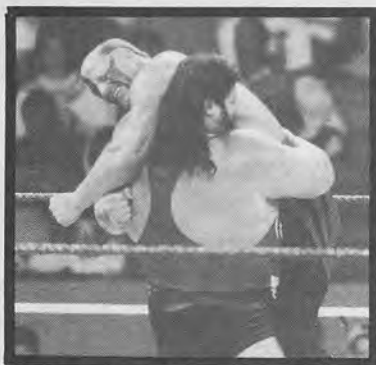
PLUS . . .

FULL-COLOR foldout plus career bio of **RON SIMMONS** . . . Exclusive "Press Conference" with **RICK STEINER** . . . Find out why **LEX LUGER** is despised and admired . . . It's **STING** vs. **HULK HOGAN** in the "PWI Dream Tournament" final—and you decide who wins! . . . Vote for 1991's greatest wrestlers and matches!

All this—and much more . . .
in the January 1992 issue of
Pro Wrestling Illustrated

NOW ON SALE!

THE Wrestler



THE LEGION OF DOOM'S championship catastrophe: They're overpowered by **THE NATURAL DISASTERS**!



Will **MR. HUGHES** be the **VIRGIL** of 1992?

PLUS . . .

He's got the talent, he's got the style, but **JOHNNY B. BADD** won't be champ for a while! . . . Tri-State's **AUTUMN ARMAGEDDON** Bloodfest: Is there too much Philadelphia freedom? . . . "The Snake" sheds his skin: **JAKE ROBERTS** is slimier than ever!

All this—and much more . . .
in the January 1992 issue of
The Wrestler

NOW ON SALE!

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

ticipation is tinged with sadness.

I'll never forget all the classic matches Flair had in the NWA and WCW. His bloody battles with Dusty Rhodes. His highly athletic war with Rick Steamboat. His life-or-death struggles with Ron Garvin, Nikita Koloff, and Tatsumi Fujinami.

★ **SUPERBOWL OF
PROFESSIONAL
& AMATEUR
WOMENS WRESTLING
VIDEO'S** ★

**MULTIPAGE ILLUSTRATED
BROCHURE**
\$4.95 (U.S. FUNDS ONLY)

DELTA TIGER LILLIES
P.O. Box 2746, Dept. W3
Dublin, CA 94568

★ ★

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks
advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:

- ☐ THE WRESTLER
- ☐ INSIDE WRESTLING
- ☐ SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING
- ☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
- ☐ WRESTLING 91/WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

NAME _____

OLD ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

EFF. DATE _____

Clip this form and send to:

**TV SPORTS
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571**



WWF World champion Hulk Hogan and former World titlist Randy Savage are not as close as we suggest, writes reader George Gergen.

The legacy of the "Nature Boy" will live on, but not in the federation where he became famous. I can't help but feel melancholy about that.

ANDREW DENNISTON
Boston

TRUTH OR RUMOR?

You folks were wrong—dead wrong—in your theory in the November 1991 issue that there's a mutual admiration society between Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage ("Our Investigation Reveals . . . The Truth Behind The Hogan-Savage Connection").

Some of the points brought up made sense, but it really bugs me that some people think that Hogan can run around the WWF snapping his fingers and getting anything he wants. If he's so powerful, how come he couldn't get Savage's suspension lifted for good?

Hogan is a quality person, and it's not like him to run around pulling rank on people—not even the WWF officials.

GEORGE GERGEN
Nantucket, MA

WARY OF WAR GAMES

I really think WCW should abandon its War Games format. In the article about these double-steel cage matches in the November 1991 issue ("War Games: Cowards Need Not Apply!"), David Rosenbaum detailed all the dan-

gers and perils of being involved in this life-threatening kind of match.

This is not the age of the Roman Empire. We no longer throw Christians to the lions. So why are we allowing eight great wrestlers to put their careers in jeopardy in a hell surrounded and covered by molten steel? Already, we've seen the careers of Kevin Sullivan and Brian Pillman nearly destroyed because of War Games.

The only good war is no war!

PAMELA WARNER
Catskill, NY

WORN LEATHER

What's happened to Leatherface? For months, he was the most feared man in the USWA, but now he seems to have vanished. There are other big men around in Memphis now such as Awesome Kong, Bruiser, and Dragon Master, but none of them made people run for their lives in fear the way the giant with the chainsaw did.

I'd have to say that Leatherface really carved a niche for himself in the USWA—literally!

BOB DITMAR
Memphis, TN

[Editor's Note: We have been attempting to locate Leatherface since his sudden departure from the USWA. So far, we've come up with nothing, but we'll keep trying.] □

BACK ISSUES OF



Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlingmania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnight-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.

May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.
June 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair.
July 1989/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.
August 1989/Stories include: Hulkamania, Steamboat, Rude, Cornette.
September 1989/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes.
October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.
November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.
December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.
January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.
April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orions.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.

INSIDE WRESTLING

☐ NOV 74 ☐ SEPT 80 ☐ MAR 84 ☐ AUG 86 ☐ FEB 89
☐ AUG 75 ☐ NOV 80 ☐ APR 84 ☐ SEPT 86 ☐ MAR 89
☐ FEB 76 ☐ JAN 81 ☐ MAY 84 ☐ OCT 86 ☐ MAY 89
☐ MAR 76 ☐ APR 81 ☐ JUNE 84 ☐ NOV 86 ☐ JUNE 89
☐ AUG 76 ☐ MAY 81 ☐ JULY 84 ☐ DEC 86 ☐ JULY 89
☐ SEPT 76 ☐ JUNE 81 ☐ AUG 84 ☐ JAN 87 ☐ AUG 89
☐ OCT 76 ☐ SEPT 81 ☐ SEPT 84 ☐ FEB 87 ☐ SEPT 89
☐ NOV 76 ☐ FEB 82 ☐ OCT 84 ☐ MAR 87 ☐ OCT 89
☐ DEC 76 ☐ MAR 82 ☐ NOV 84 ☐ APR 87 ☐ NOV 89
☐ JAN 77 ☐ APR 82 ☐ DEC 84 ☐ MAY 87 ☐ DEC 89
☐ AUG 77 ☐ MAY 82 ☐ JAN 85 ☐ JUNE 87 ☐ JAN 90
☐ SEPT 77 ☐ JUNE 82 ☐ FEB 85 ☐ JULY 87 ☐ FEB 90
☐ OCT 77 ☐ JULY 82 ☐ MAR 85 ☐ AUG 87 ☐ APR 90
☐ NOV 77 ☐ AUG 82 ☐ APR 85 ☐ SEPT 87 ☐ MAY 90
☐ DEC 77 ☐ SEPT 82 ☐ MAY 85 ☐ OCT 87 ☐ JUNE 90
☐ MAR 78 ☐ OCT 82 ☐ JUNE 85 ☐ NOV 87 ☐ JULY 90
☐ APR 78 ☐ NOV 82 ☐ JULY 85 ☐ DEC 87 ☐ AUG 90
☐ DEC 78 ☐ DEC 82 ☐ AUG 85 ☐ JAN 88 ☐ SEPT 90
☐ JAN 79 ☐ FEB 83 ☐ SEPT 85 ☐ FEB 88 ☐ OCT 90
☐ FEB 79 ☐ MAR 83 ☐ OCT 85 ☐ MAR 88 ☐ NOV 90
☐ APR 79 ☐ APR 83 ☐ NOV 85 ☐ APR 88 ☐ DEC 90
☐ JUNE 79 ☐ MAY 83 ☐ DEC 85 ☐ MAY 88 ☐ JAN 91
☐ JULY 79 ☐ JUNE 83 ☐ JAN 86 ☐ JUNE 88 ☐ FEB 91
☐ SEPT 79 ☐ JULY 83 ☐ FEB 86 ☐ JULY 88 ☐ MAR 91
☐ FEB 80 ☐ AUG 83 ☐ MAR 86 ☐ AUG 88 ☐ APR 91
☐ APR 80 ☐ SEPT 83 ☐ APR 86 ☐ OCT 88 ☐ MAY 91
☐ MAY 80 ☐ OCT 83 ☐ MAY 86 ☐ NOV 88 ☐ JUNE 91
☐ JUNE 80 ☐ NOV 83 ☐ JUNE 86 ☐ DEC 88
☐ AUG 80 ☐ DEC 83 ☐ JULY 86 ☐ JAN 89

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice:

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

**T.V. SPORTS
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571**

**ONLY
\$3.00 EACH**

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose \$_____ (U.S. FUNDS ONLY) as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

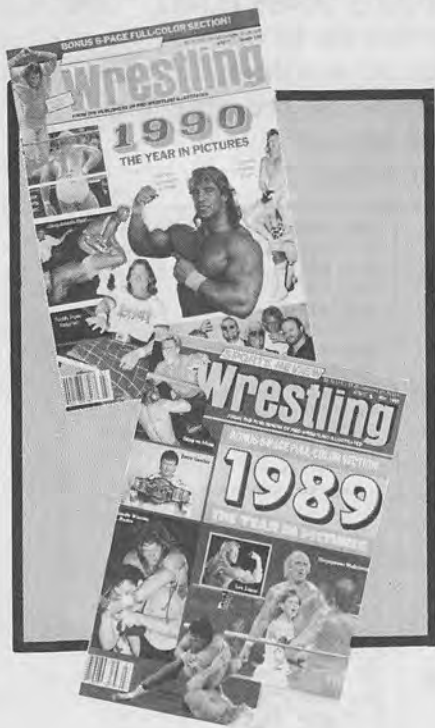
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add \$1.50 for every back issue ordered for boat mail, and \$3.00 for every back issue ordered for airmail. Int'l money order only.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

OWN A PIECE OF WRESTLING HISTORY!



In the March 1990 and March 1991 editions, *Sports Review Wrestling* featured a bonus FULL-COLOR "Year In Pictures" section! All the feuds, title changes, controversies, and dramas of each year are captured in dozens of magnificent peak-action photos as only the staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* can bring them to you! Copies of these collectors' issues are only \$5 each. Supplies are limited, so order today!

Make check or money order payable
and send to:
TV SPORTS Only \$5 Each
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

Please rush me the issue(s) of *Sports Review Wrestling* I have checked below. I enclose \$5 for each one I am ordering.

- ☐ March 1990 (1989 in review)
☐ March 1991 (1990 in review)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

All other countries \$7. International money order only.
Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



val, dedicated his career to Magnum. Last year, Nikita forgot all about that vow. The "Russian Nightmare" had become an honorary American, but frustration set in and the nightmare returned.

So ends one of the most interesting chapters in wrestling history, a chapter that, quite sadly, will be forgotten years from now because Koloff was such an under-achiever. He won the U.S. title back in 1986, but that was it.

He failed to win the World title from Ric Flair, although he came close on several occasions during his stunning rookie season. He

Nikita Koloff's feud with Lex Luger during the early part of 1991 was apparently not enough to keep him interested in the sport.

was one of the first Russians to earn the fans' respect, but even that was gone by the end.

That's why it's so hard to believe Nikita's career is over. It should be just beginning. There is still so much to accomplish.

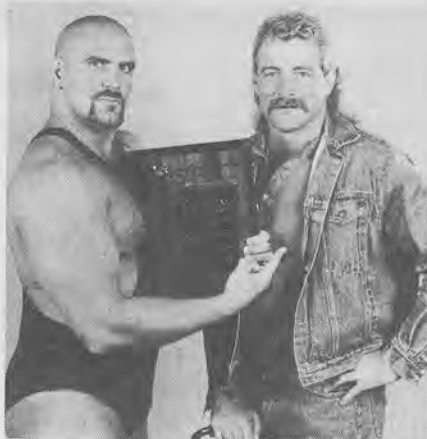
"I remember how incredibly tough he was back in 1986," Magnum said. "We had that U.S. title series that went on through the whole summer and Nikita was absolutely fearsome. You know, I looked forward to those matches

more than any others because the intensity level was so high. I don't understand how Nikita lost that intensity."

Maybe it's because being a Russian fan favorite in America had its price. It cost him his uncle, Ivan Koloff. It cost him valuable funding from the Soviet Union and the support of the people back home in Leningrad. Nikita was, in every way, a man without a country.

"He always seemed so alone," one wrestler said. "You could see it in his eyes. Nikita would be the life of the party, but then he'd be off by himself some place. I guess that was hard to deal with."

There was a time many years ago when Nikita was preparing for a match against Flair for the World title. Nikita and Ivan spent months in seclusion preparing for that match. Other wrestlers marveled at Nikita's singleminded dedication to success.



Nikita once called Magnum T.A. a friend. Those days seem long gone.

And maybe that's another reason Nikita backed out of the game. He was running a business and a wrestling career at the same time. One obviously had to interfere with the other. The surprise is that when confronted with giving up one or the other, Nikita gave up wrestling.

"I get great satisfaction out of running business," Nikita said. "It is something you cannot do back


in Soviet Union. It is great privilege and something I will never give up."

On a recent day at the Fortress of Fitness, Nikita greeted several old wrestling friends, had lunch with a reporter, and talked about his career. He is an introspective man. He has not had an easy life. A few years ago, he lost his beloved bride to Hodgkin's disease. Nikita's courage in the face of that tragedy was something to admire.

Things were never the same for Nikita after that. How does one recover from such an experience? How can the killer instinct be left intact?

Perhaps that is what Nikita thought every night when he went home after a particularly difficult match. What's the point?

Now he will lead a simpler life. The sport will miss him, but Nikita must do what is best for himself. □



WRESTLING TALK

with THE HONKY TONK MAN

**Hear the Inside News from
The Intercontinental Champion!**

1-900-288-HONKY

(1-900-288-4665)

\$2 per minute / 24 hours a day / Touch Tone Phone required / Under 18 must have parental permission

- Exclusive locker room talk
- Learn about the personal lives of wrestlers
- Wrestling secrets promoters don't want you to know!
- Who are the toughest wrestlers?

FIND OUT. CALL TODAY!

★ THE ORIGINAL BOXING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING NEWS ★

ONLY \$5 EACH

All the back issues of the original BOXING ILLUSTRATED-WRESTLING NEWS listed for sale in this ad were edited and published by Stanley Weston, who founded the magazine in 1958 and sold his interests in 1964. Each issue contains an exciting wrestling section, crampacked with thrilling photos and award-winning stories. No wrestling fan can call his magazine collection complete without these back issue treasures. (Some copies are damaged. However they are more than worth the price because of their rarity)

ALL SALES FINAL NO EXCHANGES OR REFUNDS CAN BE MADE

BOXING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING NEWS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1959 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 1962 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 1959 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 1962 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June 1959 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 1963 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 1959 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1963 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 1961 | <input type="checkbox"/> June 1963 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 1962 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 1963 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 1962 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 1963 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 1962 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan. 1964 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 1962 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1964 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 1964 |

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND SEND TO:

T.V. SPORTS
BOX 48

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

Please rush the issues of BOXING ILLUSTRATED/WRESTLING NEWS checked. I am enclosing \$5 (U.S. FUNDS ONLY) for EACH copy.

In the event my first choices are sold out, I will accept the following substitutes

\$5 EACH

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

NAME

ADDRESS

APT.

CITY

STATE

ZIP

For all orders except the U.S., you must add \$1.50 for every back issue ordered for boat mail, and \$3.00 for every back issue ordered airmail. Int'l money order only. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

Hey, I wouldn't have it any other way. People will believe what they want to believe, even if four of their five senses tell them differently. My job is to patrol the hearts and minds of pro wrestlers and report back what really is going on in their souls. If no one listens, it's their loss. So far, I'm satisfied with the results.

By the way, whatever happened to the Class of '85? What did your heroes accomplish in these past six years? How have they returned your undying devotion and faithfulness? Let's start from the top.

The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

As teams with real talent began to move into WCW, the Crock 'n' Troll Express became expendable, even to their core groupies who, upon graduating from junior high school, discovered real men play with footballs not bandanas. After knocking around minor federations for several years, Morton returned to WCW and soon became the computer-programmed rulebreaking Richard Morton, managed by Alexandra York. He engineered a feud against his old partner Gibson. Though their names were restored to the headlines, their feud was more pillow fight than wrestling match, and Gibson soon fled. They are two soft-bellied wrestlers whose diminished skills guaranteed the only match worth watching that involved either was one between themselves. They've come a long way, baby.

Dusty Rhodes.

The great Dusty Rhodes, who spoke of loyalty and integrity with the same love one speaks of their grandchildren, left WCW, where he was three-time World champion, wrestled briefly in Florida, then moved on to the WWF, a

federation he once criticized as being the "laughingstock of pro wrestling."

It wasn't long before Dusty found his niche. All-American Dusty impersonated a number of blue-collar workers (pizzaman, plumber) to reinforce his humble, regular-guy status to the fans. He took to dancing with a giant black woman dressed like a bumblebee, who eventually became his manager and tag team partner. By that time, even I lost the heart to criticize Dusty Rhodes. I was taught long ago it wasn't right to kick a man when he was down. The Splotch will always enjoy favorite-son status in my heart.

Andre the Giant Idiot.

There is really no one out there who disagreed with me when I said, years ago, that Andre was a genetic mutation whose rapidly disintegrating body should be dissected for the sake of all freaks not yet born, was there?

Hulk Hogan.

He was the champion then,



Andre the Giant will always be the Andre the Giant Idiot in Ellner's eyes.

and remains so now. I have developed a begrudging respect for Hogan over these past six years that owes itself completely to his stubbornness to succumb to mediocrity. The man still can't wrestle. His skills place him in the middle of every category. Yet there he remains, champion, the most popular beltholder in wrestling history. Some natural phenomena simply defy analysis.

The Von Erichs.

The editors are twitching. The readers are fearful. What will he write about the family *this* time? Will he dance on another grave, or will he show compassion? You people are so simpleminded. I have never demonstrated anything but sympathy for the Von Erich family. After Kerry's crippling motorcycle accident, I demanded that the powers-that-be give it a break. Stop the carnage. Enough is enough. How much can one family be expected to endure?

I don't know the Von Erich family. I do know, through conversations with each family member, that they are a likable enough bunch. They give good interviews. What I didn't like was the Von Erichs' continued portrayal of themselves as wrestling's First Family. The perfect family. The Waltons of Denton, Texas. With each new tragedy, the family supposedly gathered strength to move on. It is painfully clear that members of this family had crippling psychological problems. Instead of placing on a brave face after each tragedy and "getting back to the ring," this family should have sought help. They should have retired, folded the tent, and healed.

Look, I don't presume to know the problems faced by Mike and Chris Von Erich. But I do know a wrestling magazine is the wrong place for those problems to be discussed.

T.V. Sports Video presents WRESTLING CLASSICS!!

Vol. 1



Buddy "Nature Boy" Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor
1961 Classic World Title Bout
Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez vs. Skull Murphy & Karl Von Hess
June Byers vs. Betty Hawkins
Dick the Bruiser vs. Pepper Gomez
The Sheik vs. Mark Lewin
Bonus interview: Wild Red Berry & The Fabulous Kangaroos

Vol. 2



Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James
Antonino Rocca vs. Johnny Valentine
6-Man Tag Team Match:
The Fabulous Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricki Starr
Killer Kowalski vs. Edouard Carpentier
Haystacks Calhoun vs. Killer Brooks

Vol. 3



6-Man Tag Team Match - 2 out of 3 falls:
Buddy Rogers, Handsome Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice vs. Bobo Brazil, "Calypso Kid" Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas
Tolos Brothers vs. Bob Nandor & Chet Wallick
Ed Carpentier vs. Skull Murphy
Yukon Eric vs. Fritz Von Erich
Bulldog Brower vs. Bearcat Wright

Vol. 4



The Fabulous Kangaroos vs. Moose Cholak & Mighty Atlas
Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt
Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez
Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys
Bobo Brazil vs. Ski Hi Lee

Vol. 5



The Sheik vs. Bobo Brazil
Antonino Rocca vs. Hans Schmidt
with special guest referee: Joe Louis
Wrestling Workouts
Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas vs. Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice
Gorgeous George vs. Illo Dipaulo

Vol. 6



Mixed Tag Team - Heavyweights and Midgets:
Luis Martinez & Little Boy Blue vs. Beautiful Bruce & Sky Low Low
Steel Cage Match:
Randy Savage vs. Jerry "The King" Lawler
Female Midgets:
Princess Little Dove vs. Diamond Lil
Mixed 6-Man Tag Team:
Little Bruiser, The Bruiser & The Crusher vs. Bobby Heenan, Blackjack Mulligan & Blackjack Lanza
2-Ring Detroit Battle Royal featuring:
Andre The Giant, Bobo Brazil, The Wolfman, The Brute, The Wild Man

Please send me the videos checked above.

- ☐ I have enclosed a check or money order for the full amount, plus postage and handling charges, made payable to T.V. Sports Video, Inc.
☐ I wish to pay by: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Account #:

Exp. Date:

Visa & MasterCard orders
may call toll-free:
1-800-729-0360

Send to: **T.V. Sports Video, Inc.**
Box 1003
Darien, CT 06820

Name

Address

Apt. #

City/State/Zip

Only
\$14.95
each.
Or...

\$80.00
FOR ALL SIX!!

postage
& handling:
1-3 tapes \$5.00
4-6 tapes \$8.00

VHS FORMAT ONLY

©1991 T.V. Sports Video. All rights reserved.

ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)



Though Precious, Garvin's longtime valet, is no longer on the scene, Garvin and Michael Hayes manage to create plenty of excitement as they pursue The Enforcers' WCW World tag team title.

times when she helped me out of a jam. She was a good ol' bird, Precious. I'll give her that. Hayes said he loved the way we could electrify an arena. Funny thing is I used to think the same thing about him and his boys."

Now, of course, Hayes and Garvin have been Freebird partners for nearly three years. Not many people, myself included, thought Garvin was capable of upholding the Freebird tradition of reckless boozing and brawling. At an inch-and-a-half under six feet tall, in his long, elegant silken robes, Garvin seemed a little too diminutive and soft to maintain the Freebird standards.

Having captured the WCW World tag team title twice, and threatening to repeat, Garvin has proven he's as much a Freebird as they come.

"Hayes wouldn't have approached me if he thought I didn't have the goods," Garvin said.

"Wrestlers know how tough I am. That's what really matters. Ask around and you'll hear that Jimmy Garvin is one of the toughest outs in pro wrestling."

Garvin holds the distinction of being one of the few men in wrestling history to hold both the WCW and AWA tag team title belts. I asked him to name his top career highlights and his selections accurately reflected a 22-year career marked by extremes.

"I'll tell you something," he smiled. "When you guys came out with the *'Pro Wrestling Illustrated 500'* that was a career highlight."

"How so?" I asked. If I recalled correctly, Garvin didn't even make the top 50.

"I was 93," he said. "But my brother Ronnie, y'know, the ex-*World champion*, was rated 126. I laminated the damned thing and sent it to him Federal Express. That was a thrill all right."

Okay, Jimmy, but how about an

in-ring thrill?

"Defeating The Road Warriors along with Steve Regal back in 1985 for the AWA tag championship was a shocker," he recalls. "I got a letter from a guy in Minnesota who said he won \$2,500 on that match. He bet a friend \$25 and got 100-1 odds. Can you imagine? We were 100-1 underdogs. I'll never forget the look on Ellering's face as I put the belt around my waist. Man, that was worth a fortune in itself!

"Winning the WCW title with Hayes was a huge thrill, though it won't compare with the satisfaction I'll get by beating The Enforcers for the belts again. If you can get odds on that match, Lizzy, I suggest you plunk down some of your hard-earned money."

I'm not a betting woman, but I would say with some degree of certainty that we'll never again see 100-1 odds on a match involving Jim Garvin. □

BACK ISSUES OF

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

Complete your collection of **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED**. Don't miss out on the excellence that has made **PWI** the leader in wrestling journalism. **PLUS**—Each issue contains a giant **FULL-COLOR** poster of one of your favorite wrestling stars. Quantities limited—order today! [NOTE: Cover stories noted in **BOLDFACE**.]

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, J.Y.D., Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Lugar, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan**, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Four Horsemen**, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth**, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger**, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. **Savage**, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage**, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Steamboat**, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Hogan**, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude. **Luger vs. Hogan**, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Rhodes**, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka. **Luger**, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

January 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sid Vicious. **Ultimate**, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

February 1990/COLOR PINUP: Bret Hart. **Lex Luger**, Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

April 1990/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Ric Flair**, Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

May 1990/COLOR PINUP: The Great Muta. **Hulk Hogan**, Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

June 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior**, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

July 1990/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

September 1990/PINUP: Rick & Scott Steiner. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Sting, Horsemen, Hennig.

October 1990/PINUP: Brutus Beefcake. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sting, Tugboat, Ultimate, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.

November 1990/PINUP: Legion of Doom. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sting beats Flair, Rude-Warrior.

December 1990/PINUP: Sting. **COLOR FEATURES:** Legion of Doom, Kerry, Slaughter, Doom, Horsemen.

January 1991/PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. **COLOR FEATURES:** WWF vs. NWA, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri.

February 1991/PINUP: 1991 calendar. **COLOR FEATURES:** Scott Steiner, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase.

April 1991/PINUP: Tom Zenk. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.

May 1991/PINUP: Arn Anderson. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Doom, Horsemen, Steiner.

July 1991/PINUP: Brian Pillman. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Luger, Demolition, Embry, Horsemen-Vicious.

October 1991/PINUP: Lex Luger. **COLOR FEATURES:** Justice, Hogan-Slaughter, Windham, Steve Williams.

November 1991/PINUP: "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton. **COLOR FEATURES:** Savage & Elizabeth, Bushwhackers, Jushin Liger, Pillman.

December 1991/PINUP: Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat. **COLOR FEATURES:** PWI 500, Simmons, Johnny B. Badd, Hogan-Flair.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1983 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 1986 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 1989 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1983 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1986 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 1989 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1983 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1986 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1989 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June 1983 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1987 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1989 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 1983 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1987 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec 1989 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 1983 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 1987 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1983 | <input type="checkbox"/> June 1987 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec 1983 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 1987 | <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 1987 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1987 | <input type="checkbox"/> June 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1987 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sept 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec 1990 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1985 | <input type="checkbox"/> June 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1991 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1985 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1991 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1985 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1991 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jun 1985 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 1991 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sep 1985 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec 1988 | <input type="checkbox"/> June 1991 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1985 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 1989 | <input type="checkbox"/> July 1991 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1986 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 1989 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1991 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June 1986 | <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1989 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 1991 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 1986 | <input type="checkbox"/> June 1989 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec 1991 |

Make Check Payable And Send To:

T.V. SPORTS

Box 48

Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Please send me the back issues I've checked. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Number of Magazines Ordered: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ **U.S. FUNDS ONLY**

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute issue: _____ **PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY**

Name _____ Apt. _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add \$1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and \$3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order only.

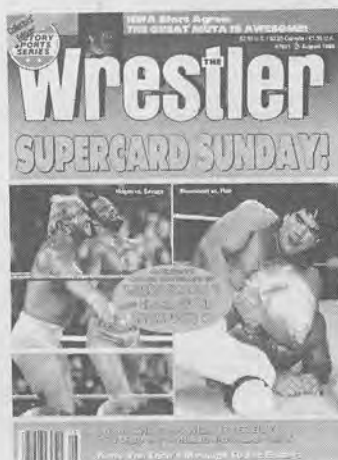
Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

**ONLY
\$3.00 EACH**

May 1991

A TRIPLE-DOSE OF HOT ACTION!

In addition to all the regular stories, interviews, and special features, these incredible issues of *The Wrestler*, *Inside Wrestling*, and *Sports Review Wrestling* offered readers exclusive bonus sections. These magazines were newsstand sellouts, and are available only through this special offer



FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!
Be sure to order yours today!

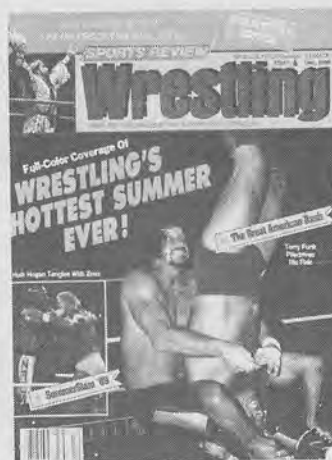
◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #1

The spectacular August 1989 edition of *The Wrestler* provided very special FULL-COLOR coverage of one of the most historic days in wrestling history: SuperCard Sunday. On that day, WrestleMania V and Clash of the Champions VI took place, and this once-in-a-lifetime magazine provides all the action and analysis of a once-in-a-lifetime day!



◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #2

The March 1990 edition of *Inside Wrestling* is a collector's dream: A magnificent eight-page FULL-COLOR section highlights all the big events of the '80s! Plus, you get a dynamic and fast-paced year-by-year review of the decade. It's a magazine you'll cherish forever, truly a one-of-a-kind piece of wrestling history!



◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #3

The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.

THE BLACKHEARTS

(Continued from page 28)



But even with her men's new status as champions, Vachon seems to have other goals in mind.

"This Tri-State title don't mean squat to us," said the ever-rude Vachon as she pointed at the gold belt lying in the corner. "We're out to dominate the wrestling world. Already, we've gone to Japan and shocked all those teams over there. When we wrestled in the UWF, we nearly tore down all the arenas in Florida. But my Blackhearts are a major league team. We could beat [WCW World tag team champions] The Enforcers or [WWF tag titlists] The Legion Of Doom—or anybody else. All we want now is our chance."

Many wrestling experts seem to agree with Vachon's bold claims.

"I've never seen a young team—and I have to assume they're young—burst onto the scene the way The Blackhearts have," said impressed Japanese photojournalist Jimmy Suzuki, who has seen the team compete in several federations in the Orient. "Very few wrestlers in the U.S. can hold a candle to the great Japanese teams, but these men can. I think it's because they are

Make check or money order payable and send to:
TV SPORTS
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

ONLY \$5 EACH

Please rush me the magazines I have checked below.
I enclose \$5 for each one I am ordering.

☐ March 1990
Inside Wrestling
(1980s in review)

☐ August 1989
The Wrestler
(SuperCard Sunday)

☐ December 1989
Sports Review Wrestling
(Wrestling's hottest summer)

Name _____

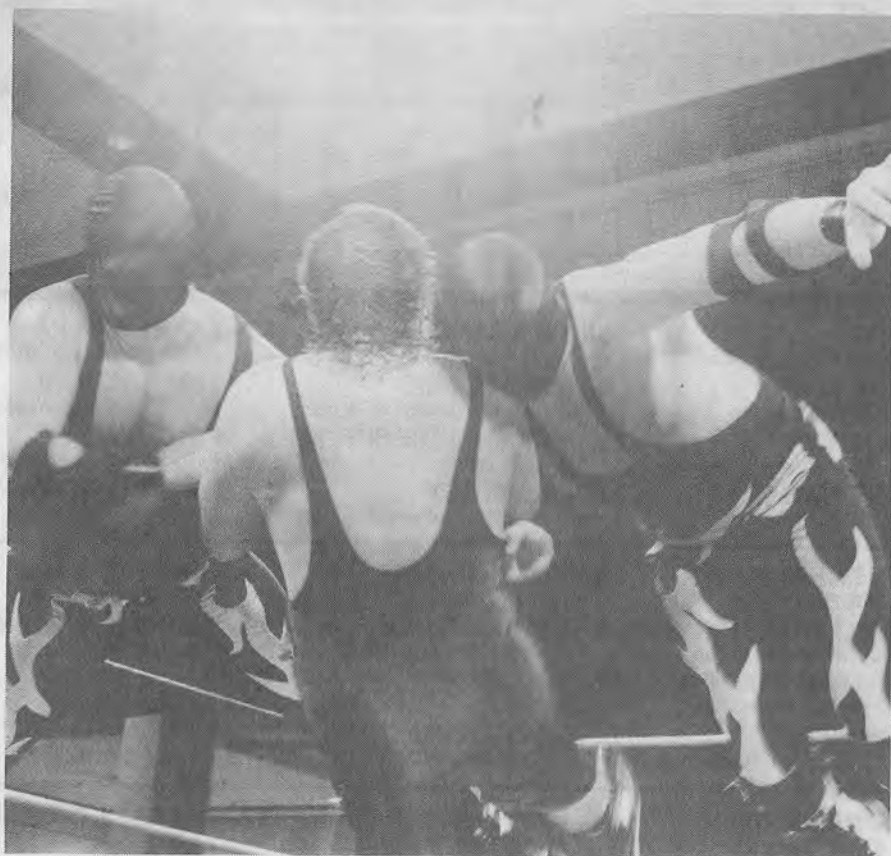
Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

All other countries \$7. International money order only. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.



As The Blackhearts roll over their opposition (opposite page and above), they're gaining more and more attention. They're already highly regarded in Japan.

as agile as the are large—they can beat you with power or aerial skills. Have you seen their double-DDT from the top turnbuckle? Astounding. And to think—they're just getting started!"

And they're getting *stranger*. Recently, Vachon claimed she hung both Blackhearts by their ankles in a locked, dank dungeon for more than seven hours.

"Makes the blood rush to their brains," explained Vachon. "Makes 'em smarter. My training methods are the most unique ever devised. With my knowledge and my team's natural ability, no one will know what to do with us. Last year, nobody knew who we were. But imagine how dangerous we'll be a year from *now*!"

Mysterious. Dangerous. Talented. The Blackhearts have hit the U.S. tag team scene in a big way. And, as Vachon says, they only figure to become more awesome as the months roll by.

No doubt they'll become even stranger as well. □

BLACK JACK BROWN'S *Live* WRESTLING TALK LINE

- Find out "Wrestling Insider" information
- Talk to featured wrestling guests
- Get up-to-the-minute results
- Talk to wrestling fans across the nation

1-900-468-5600

\$2 per minute

Under 18 - Get your parent's permission

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. EDT • Weekends 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. EDT

Extended hours for major events

Medallion Marketing (702) 251-1415

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**LEX LUGER**
(1) WCW World champion
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
(2) WWF World champion
- 3—**BRET HART**
(3) WWF I-C champion

- 4—**STING**
(4) WCW U.S. champion
- 5—**STEVE AUSTIN**
(8) WCW TV champion
- 6—**THE PATRIOT**
(7) GWF North Am. champion
- 7—**JERRY LAWLER**
(12) USWA champion

- 8—**SID JUSTICE**
(-) No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 9—**RON SIMMONS**
(5) No. 3 contender: WCW title
- 10—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
(-) No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 11—**ERIC EMBRY**
(14) USWA Southern champion

- 12—**BARRY WINDHAM**
(6) No. 5 contender: WCW title
- 13—**TOM PRICHARD**
(-) USWA Texas champion
- 14—**RIP OLIVER**
(-) Pacific Northwest champion
- 15—**TONY ATLAS**
(13) ICW champion

WCW

- 1—**LEX LUGER**
(1) 268, Chicago, IL
- 2—**STING**
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**STEVE AUSTIN**
(5) 241, Dallas, TX

- 4—**RON SIMMONS**
(3) 260, Perry, GA
- 5—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
(-) 360, Khartoum, Sudan
- 6—**BARRY WINDHAM**
(4) 263, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**CACTUS JACK**
(15) 277, Truth Or Cons., NM

- 8—**DUSTIN RHODES**
(11) 254, Austin, TX
- 9—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
(-) 233, Cincinnati, OH
- 10—**TOM ZENK**
(12) 237, Minneapolis, MN
- 11—**VAN HAMMER**
(-) 290, Atlanta, GA

- 12—**JOHNNY B. BADD**
(9) 259, Macon, GA
- 13—**RICHARD MORTON**
(10) 228, Memphis, TN
- 14—**P.N. NEWS**
(8) 402, Detroit, MI
- 15—**EL GIGANTE**
(7) 435, Argentina

WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
(1) 302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**BRET HART**
(2) 235, Calgary, Alberta
- 3—**SID JUSTICE**
(8) 318, West Memphis, AR

- 4—**THE WARLORD**
(5) 360, Chicago, IL
- 5—**BERZERKER**
(-) 316, Bozeman, MT
- 6—**THE UNDERTAKER**
(6) 320, Dallas, TX
- 7—**IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**
(10) 245, Syracuse, NY

- 8—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
(11) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 9—**BIG BOSSMAN**
(7) 277, Cobb County, GA
- 10—**RIC FLAIR**
(-) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 11—**KERRY VON ERICH**
(14) 260, Denton, TX

- 12—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
(-) 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 13—**THE MOUNTIE**
(12) 232, Montreal, Quebec
- 14—**RODDY PIPER**
(-) 231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 15—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**
(13) 245, Leeds, England

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**STING**
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—**RON SIMMONS**
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular

- 4—**SID JUSTICE**
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 5—**JERRY LAWLER**
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6—**BRET HART**
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 7—**THE PATRIOT**
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

- 8—**BARRY WINDHAM**
Last month: unrated
- 9—**VIRGIL**
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 10—**EL GIGANTE**
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular
- 11—**JEFF JARRETT**
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular

- 12—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular
- 13—**RODDY PIPER**
Last month: unrated
- 14—**TONY ANTHONY**
Last month: unrated
- 15—**BIG BOSSMAN**
Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

- 1—**LEX LUGER**
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
Last month: unrated
- 3—**JAKE ROBERTS**
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated

- 4—**CACTUS JACK**
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 5—**THE UNDERTAKER**
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 6—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
Last month: unrated
- 7—**STEVE AUSTIN**
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated

- 8—**ERIC EMBRY**
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 9—**RICHARD MORTON**
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 10—**IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**
Last month: unrated
- 11—**EDDIE GILBERT**
Last month: unrated

- 12—**TONY ATLAS**
Last month: unrated
- 13—**RIP OLIVER**
Last month: unrated
- 14—**WARLORD**
Last month: unrated
- 15—**SCOTT ANTHONY**
Last month: unrated

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ENFORCERS**
(3) WCW World tag team champions
- 2—**THE LEGION OF DOOM**
(1) WWF World tag team champions
- 3—**THE NASTY BOYS**
(2) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 4—**RICK STEINER & BILL KAZMAIER**
(5) No. 2 contenders: WCW tag title
- 5—**THE NATURAL DISASTERS**
(6) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title

- 6—**CHRIS WALKER & STEVE SIMPSON**
(10) Global tag team champions
- 7—**THE FREEBIRDS**
(8) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title
- 8—**THE TEXAS OUTLAWS**
(-) USWA tag team champions
- 9—**THE PATRIOTS**
(-) WCW U.S. tag team champions
- 10—**MIKE & TOM DAVIS**
(-) No. 1 contenders: GWF tag team title

- 11—**ROBERT FULLER & JEFF JARRETT**
(4) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag team title
- 12—**THE BEVERLY BROTHERS**
(9) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
- 13—**THE BLACKHEARTS**
(-) Tri-State tag team champions
- 14—**THE BLAZERS**
(-) Georgia All-Star tag team champions
- 15—**THE BUSHWHACKERS**
(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices. . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue. . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended October 5, 1991

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS**
(July 26, 1991; from Billy Black & Joel Deaton; Chiba, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**
(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & TOSHIKI KAWADA**
(July 24, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Kanazawa, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: TAKAKO INOUE**
(April 29, 1991; from Kyoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO**
(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: AKIRA HOKUTO**
(April 29, 1991; from Suzuka Minami; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AJA KONG & BISON KIMURA**
(April 4, 1991; over Yumiko Hotta & Akira Hokuto for vacant title; Sendai, Japan)
- CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RAMBO**
(July 6, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Graz, Austria)
- CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION EUROPEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FRANZ SCHUHMAN & MILES ZRNO**
(August 3, 1990; from Dave Finlay & Marty Jones; Vienna, Austria)
- GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: TERRY LELAND**
(by GAW officials' decision)
- * **GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE LIGHTNING KID**
(September 15, 1991; from Chaz; Marietta, GA)
- GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE SIMPSON & CHRIS WALKER**
(July 27, 1991; tournament final over Scotty the Body & Rip Rogers; Dallas, TX)
- GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by The Patriot)
- ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS**
(April 19, 1991; from Vic Steamboat; S. China, ME)
- IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON**
(by IWA officials' decision)
- IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE THUNDERFOOTS**
(July 14, 1991; from The Terminators; Sydney, Australia)
- IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE**
(July 14, 1991; from Jules Strongbow; Sydney, Australia)
- IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI**
(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)
- IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE TASMANIAN**
(June 5, 1991; from Ray Odyssey; Brooklyn, NY)
- IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BILLION-DOLLAR BABIES**
(June 1, 1991; from The Madison Brothers; Wolfeboro, NH)
- IWCCW WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**
(by IWCCW officials' decision)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: MONDO KLEEN**
(by IWF officials' decision)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEARTBREAKERS**
(July 24, 1991; tournament final over Al Hardiman & The Caribbean Kid; Winter Haven, FL)
- IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
(March 4, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Hiroshima, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
(March 21, 1991; from Hiroshi Hase & Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: AKIRA NOGAMI**
(August 8, 1991; from Jushin Liger; Tokyo, Japan)
- LPWA CHAMPION: LADY X**
(January 31, 1991; from Susan Sexton; Laughlin, NV)
- LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI**
(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)
- NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: BRUNO BEKKAR**
(December 12, 1987; from Johnny Garcia; Auckland, New Zealand)
- NEW ZEALAND JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOHNNY GARCIA**
(May 13, 1991; from War Head Wenham; Auckland, New Zealand)
- * **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: RIP OLIVER**
(September 28, 1991; from Steve Doll; Portland, OR)
- * **PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DON HARRIS & THE GRAPPLER**
(September 1, 1991; from Steve Doll & Crush; Seaside, OR)
- PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & TASHI KAWADA**
(July 24, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Kanazawa, Japan)
- PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: TYREE PRIDE**
(June 29, 1991; from Steve Keim; Nassau, Bahamas)
- PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: CHARLIE NORRIS**
(May 11, 1991; from The Golden Idol (substituting for Terminator Riggs; Shakopee, MN)
- * **SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ**
(August 31, 1991; from Chris Chavis; Pembroke, NC)
- SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE STORM TROOPERS**
(August 22, 1991; from Bobby & Jackie Fulton; Albemarle, NC)
- TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR**
(January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)
- TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: J.T. SMITH**
(August 3, 1991; pinned former champion D.C. Drake in a six-man elimination tag team match)
- * **USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**
(September 2, 1991; from The Dragon Master; Memphis, TN)
- USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY**
(May 20, 1991; over Bill Dundee for held-up title; Memphis, TN)
- * **USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TEXAS OUTLAWS**
(September 28, 1991; from Robert Fuller & Jeff Jarrett; Memphis, TN)
- USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD**
(August 19, 1991; from Humongous; Memphis, TN)
- UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK**
(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)
- UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PERRO AGUAYO & EL GRAN HAMADA**
(June 13, 1991; from Brazo De Oro & Brazo De Plata; Tokyo, Japan)
- UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS**
(June 9, 1991; tournament final over Bam Bam Bigelow; Palmetto, FL)
- UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN**
(June 9, 1991; over Candi Devine to determine first champion; Palmetto, FL)
- WCW U.S. CHAMPION: STING**
(August 25, 1991; tournament final over Steve Austin; Atlanta, GA)
- WCW U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE PATRIOTS**
(August 12, 1991; from The Freebirds; Gainesville, GA)
- WCW WORLD CHAMPION: LEX LUGER**
(July 14, 1991; over Barry Windham to fill title vacancy; Baltimore, MD)
- * **WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ARN ANDERSON & LARRY ZBYSZKO**
(September 6, 1991; tournament final over Rick Steiner & Bill Kazmaier; Augusta, GA)
- WWA WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: TATSUSHI ONIDA**
(May 29, 1991; from Gregory Berichuv; Tokyo, Japan)
- WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC III**
(July 13, 1991; from Rod Price; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Hurricane Castillo Jr. & Miguel Perez Jr.)
- WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA**
(May 25, 1991; from Brad Anderson; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)
- WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: INVADER I & EL BRONCO I**
(by official's decision)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**
(February 2, 1991; for held-up title over Greg Valentine; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MONSTER RIPPER**
(September 21, 1991; from Candi Devine; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BRET HART**
(August 26, 1991; from Curt Hennig; New York, NY)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**
(March 24, 1991; from Sgt. Slaughter; Los Angeles, CA)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE LEGION OF DOOM**
(August 26, 1991; from The Nasty Boys; New York, NY)

Blast From The Past

This Month In Wrestling History

“GORGEOUS NO MORE”



THE DESTROYER vs. GORGEOUS GEORGE

November 7, 1962

For more than two decades, flamboyant Gorgeous George loved to claim that he was the “prettiest wrestler in history.” Perhaps the toughest masked man ever, The Destroyer, was disgusted by George’s constant prancing and preening. The Destroyer challenged the aging George to a hair vs. mask bout, and accepting the dare was one of the worst decisions of George’s heralded career. The gorgeous one was shaved as slick as a cue ball after less than 12 minutes of one-sided action (inset). George, who was often heralded as the greatest showman the sport has ever known, was near the end of his career at this juncture. He died on December 26, 1963.

Fans throughout the wrestling world agree:

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

is the place to go for the most complete coverage of the sport available anywhere!

"I found out about a title change two weeks before they showed it on TV!"
—R.N., Pittsburgh

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

Because *PWI Weekly* comes out every week, all the news is as fresh as can be. You'll be the first to know about the title changes, the big match signings, the triumphs, and the tragedies throughout the entire wrestling world!

"I couldn't believe all the results from around the world—less than a week after they happen!"
—J.S., Los Angeles

PACKED WITH INFORMATION!

Each weekly issue contains the latest news and gossip, a calendar of upcoming cards throughout North America, "Yay & Nay" and "Who's Hot, Who's Not" columns, "Wrestler of the Week" and "Match of the Week" features, plus "Steve Anderson's View" (wrestling's best political cartoon), ratings, trivia questions, "Transactions," a lively editorial, "This Week In History," "Reporters' Notebook," and an extensive collection of match results! You get all of this—each and every week!—in a bold newsletter format that keeps you on top of today's wrestling news today!

"Your 'Transactions' column lets me know which wrestlers are moving to new federations."
—K.R., Milwaukee

STILL NOT SURE?

Want to try a sample issue of *PWI Weekly* before you subscribe? No problem! Just send us \$1.95 and we'll send you a copy of *PWI Weekly* hot off the press. We're certain that once you see all the news, features, and information packed into our newsletter, you'll want to become a subscriber to wrestling's fastest-growing phenomenon! (Sorry, no credit cards accepted for single-copy orders.)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

PWI Weekly is cover-priced at \$1.95 per issue, and we offer you three big ways to save:

- 17 weekly issues for just \$19.99, a 40% savings off the cover price
- 34 weekly issues for just \$34.99, a 45% savings off the cover price
- 52 weekly issues for just \$49.99, a 50% savings off the cover price

"A class act. Informative! Current! Topical! Newsworthy! Upbeat! Insightful! Dynamic!"
—G.H., Coram, NY

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY
ALL THE NEWS—FAST AND FIRST

Send to:
T.V. Sports

Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to T.V. Sports)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____

MO/YR

Yes! I want to be in on the excitement! Please send me a subscription to *PWI Weekly* as follows:

- ☐ 17 weekly issues for just \$19.99, a 40% savings
☐ 34 weekly issues for just \$34.99, a 45% savings
☐ 52 weekly issues for just \$49.99, a 50% savings

☐ I'd like to see a sample copy before I subscribe. Enclosed please find a check or money order for \$1.95.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT _____

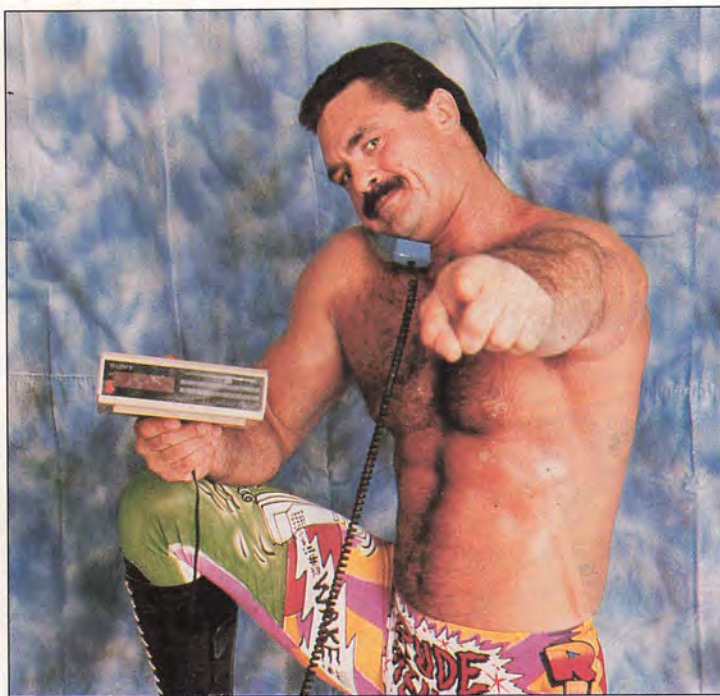
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign airmail orders: \$2.70 for single issue; \$32.74 for 17 issues; \$60.49 for 34 issues; \$88.99 for 52 issues. Int'l money orders only.

SPECIAL NOTE TO BRITISH FANS: *PWI Weekly* is now available by subscription in the U.K. exclusively from Wrestlemanix. Telephone: 071 738 4991.

Get Rude on the Phone!

**Ravishing
Rick Rude**
Former WWF
Intercontinental
Champion



Call for:

- The Rude Awakening
- Your personal wrestling match
- Trivia Contest

Pin Rick in the Ring and Win a Personal Visit from Rick for a "RUDE AWAKENING."

Call 1-900-420-RUDE and pick a move . . . pile driver, scorpion, or a figure four. If you're tough enough to pin Rick, you'll automatically be entered. Even if you wimp out in the match, you can still win! Answer the three trivia questions below, by phone or by mail, and you're automatically entered in the contest. Here are the prizes:



Grand Prize – Rick personally wakes you up or the person of your choice at the time and place you choose (subject to available dates). He delivers breakfast in bed and a check for \$1,000.



First and Second Prize – \$500 and four tickets to a wrestling match in or near your home town.

Trivia questions:

1. Who did Rick Rude defeat for the WWF Intercontinental Championship?
2. What does Rick Rude call his finishing maneuver to beat his opponents?
3. Rick Rude featured a picture of a wrestler's wife on his wrestling tights. Name that wrestler.

Call 1-900-420-RUDE

7 8 3 3

\$1.95 first minute. 95¢ each additional minute. If you're under 18, you must have parents' permission. Touchtone phone required.

Rules: No purchase or phone call necessary. Call as often as you'd like, all phone entries receive immediate qualification notice. Or enter by mail and receive notification at contest end. To enter send a 3" x 5" card to the address below and print your choice of hold to pin Rick and the answers to the three trivia questions above. Entrants must either correctly pick the hold to pin Rick or answer all three trivia questions correctly to qualify for the random drawing. All qualifiers will be entered in the drawing and winners selected at random by an independent judging organization. Winners will be notified by mail. Deadline to receive mail or phone entries is February 28, 1992. Odds of winning are determined by the total number of entrants. Void in Iowa, New York, Florida, Puerto Rico, Virginia, Georgia, Louisiana, Washington, Oregon and where prohibited by law. Unclaimed prizes will be awarded in a subsequent drawing from all entrants within 30 days of original drawing. For a complete set of rules and winners' list, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for each request to the address below.

Wrestling Trivia • 14802 N. Dale Mabry • Suite 200 • Tampa, FL 33618